

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

**Live on the edge, but watch what you eat**

Scene magazine inside



Blowfish

**Wolfowitz hopes tsunami missions end 'before March'**

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**Wounded Pats look to slow Colts offense**

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Patriots coach Bill Belichick

Volume 63, No. 272 © SS 2005

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2005

\$1.00

# Understanding COLA

- Why servicemembers stationed at bases across Europe receive different adjustments
- How the dollar's constant fluctuation influences rates

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Fox photos

Army Reserve Capt. DeLisa Stiles was transformed into "The Swan" on Fox's makeover show.

## Soldier to 'Swan'

**Army captain regains confidence, femininity through TV makeover odyssey**

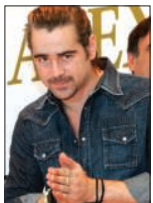
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## STARS &amp; STRIPES

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## Military

**Missile defense system:** The Pentagon may never publicly declare that its new missile defense system is fully ready to defend against long-range missiles aimed at the United States, but it already has a limited capability against a small-scale attack, a Pentagon official said Thursday.

The Bush administration's goal was to activate the system by the end of 2004.

"We haven't made a declaration that we are now hereby operational," said Larry Di Rita, spokesman for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

At some point, the interceptor missiles will be placed on permanent alert — a condition in which they will be capable of being fired from their silos at any time.

**Military recruiters at schools:** The Justice Department said it will ask the Supreme Court to overturn an appeals court's ruling that would allow colleges and universities to limit the activities of military recruiters on their campuses without fear of losing federal funding.

Government lawyers also asked the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday to stay enforcement of its ruling until the Supreme Court decides whether or not to take the case.

Immediate implementation of the ruling, they argued, could mean the nation's military readiness by making it harder to hire the huge teams of lawyers needed for issues related to operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

## Nation

**Robert Blake trial:** An expert witness said he did not find any blood on the clothing that Robert Blake wore the night his wife was shot to death, but prosecutors said that doesn't eliminate the actor as a suspect.

Rod Engert, a crime scene reconstructionist, testified he was asked to analyze Blake's clothes and those of Bonnie Lee Bakley to determine the blood patterns left by two gunshot wounds to her head and shoulder.

He said Friday that he did numerous tests on the actor's clothes and found not a speck of blood on his T-shirt, jeans, boots, socks or belt.

**Vibe Awards fight:** The rapper Young Buck pleaded not guilty Friday to an assault charge for allegedly stabbing a man during a melee at the Vibe Awards after Dr. Dre was punched.

The 23-year-old Buck, whose given name is David Darnell Brown, is accused of stabbing Jimmy Johnson in retaliation after Johnson allegedly punched Dre, Brown's mentor, during the Nov. 15 taping of the show.

**Faith-based grants:** A judge has blocked the Bush administration from providing future "faith-based" grants to an Arizona mentoring group, MentorKids USA, that injected religion into its publicly funded programs.

The ruling is the first time a judge has struck down a grant through the president's



**Marine shot by police:** Julia and Tomas Raya, parents of Andres Raya, embrace as they arrive at Lakewood Memorial Park in Hughson, Calif., on Friday for a funeral service for their son. Raya, a young Marine whose family said he feared returning to Iraq, was killed by police after he shot and killed an officer and wounded another, and authorities said they are investigating the case as a "suicide by cop." Raya, 19, was killed Sunday after he initiated a second gunfight with police as they pursued him for the earlier shooting, authorities said.

faith-based initiative, which seeks to give religious groups equal footing in seeking federal grants to provide social services.

**Chicago nightclub shooting:** A bouncer who was shot at a nightclub after a patron was denied entry is the third victim to die from his injuries, authorities said.

Eugene Walker, 24, died Thursday night, said the Cook County medical examiner's office.

Police continue to investigate the Saturday shooting that began when a patron was denied entry into Cafe Allure.

**N.Y. gay marriage case:** Attorneys for 25 same-sex couples seeking the right to marry said Friday that New York's opposition to gay marriage is akin to the mentality that once allowed slavery and discrimination against women and minorities.

"The basis of the [the state's] opposition is that it goes against tradition. If tradition carried on, we would still have slavery," said Mariette Goldenhuys, one of the attorneys for the same-sex couples.

The 25 couples applied for marriage licenses early in 2004 and were turned down by the Ithaca city clerk, who was following a state Health Department advisory.

**Sept. 11 fraud case:** A man who collected \$68,000 by falsely claiming his domestic partner died in the 2001 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center has pleaded guilty to grand theft.

Patric Henn, 29, entered his plea Wednesday, without a deal from prosecutors. He admitted making up the story to steal from the American Red Cross.

Henn could face up to 15 years in prison at sentencing scheduled for Jan. 19.

**WTC funding:** Developer Larry Silverstein was given authorization Tuesday by the New York City Industrial Development

Agency to borrow an additional \$75 million through tax-exempt Liberty Bonds for the 7 World Trade Center project, which is set to open next year.

Two years ago, Silverstein won preliminary approval for \$400 million in Liberty Bonds, but had to come back to the agency because of higher interest costs and a lower insurance payout than he expected.

## World

**N. Korea nuclear talks:** The head of a U.S. congressional delegation said Saturday he was encouraged by North Korea's apparent readiness to return to talks on its nuclear programs, and called meetings with North Korean officials more positive than expected.

"They are ready to get back to substantive discussions," Republican Rep. Curt Weldon said in Beijing. "Nothing is off the table."

Weldon said they met with North Korea's No. 2 leader, Kim Yong Nam; Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun; and Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan during their three-day visit.

## War on terrorism

**Gitmo review tribunals:** U.S. military review tribunals have ordered 13 more detainees to remain in custody at the camp for terrorist suspects in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, an official said Friday.

Review tribunals determined the men were correctly classified as "enemy combatants," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Daryll Borgquist, a Pentagon spokesman.

The Combatant Status Review Tribunals have ordered only two prisoners released or transferred to other countries from the U.S. Naval base. Another 254 have been ordered to remain in detention, including the latest 13.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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# 'Where's my money?'

## Calculating COLA adjustments for servicemembers in Europe depends on complicated and often confusing factors

BY TERRY BOYD  
AND KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

**A** BAUMHOLDER, Germany as the dollar rebounds a bit from record lows against foreign currencies, most servicemembers assigned overseas know they get cost-of-living allowance adjustments to help ease their financial pain.

Few, however, understand exactly how the government makes up for lost purchasing power, especially when it comes to currency fluctuations. And hardly anyone knows, for example, why a soldier in Germany gets a different adjustment than his Air Force counterpart in Italy.

When Stars and Stripes ran an article in November about U.S. Army Europe soldiers getting a cost-of-living adjustment averaging roughly 31 percent, e-mails came in from across Europe asking, "Where's my money?"

"I am just asking the question for us folks in Italy," Senior Master Sgt. Stan Nowacki, 704th Munitions Support Squadron, Ghedi Air Base, wrote in an e-mail. "Is our COLA going to go up like those in Germany?"

In a follow-up phone interview, Nowacki said that Ghedi, a geographicaly separated unit, has no commissary or base exchange, and is in an expensive resort area west of Verona. Yet his COLA is only about \$100 more per paycheck than if he were based in Aviano, a full-service base.

Servicemembers stationed at the four major military hubs in Italy — Naples, Sigonella, Aviano and Vicenza — all received some kind of boost in the COLA rates in November. But they were all different and some came at different times.

In Sigonella, for instance, the big boost was 22 percent on Nov. 1. Naples' increase was also Nov. 1, but the jump was only 8 percent. Vicenza's rate rose only 12 percent. Aviano had an increase of 26 percent on Nov. 1 and got two other increases after that.

The total rate of COLA that servicemembers received in each area wasn't readily available. But those stationed in Naples, a large metropolitan area, receive more than those in Aviano, a large rural environment.

### 'Weak dollar' factor

If COLA rates were based only on currency fluctuations, they'd be uniform across countries using the euro. Instead, the rates vary widely because there's far more to setting COLAs than the value of the dollar, including rank, years in service

and number of dependents.

That said, in Europe, the big news is the shrinking dollar. Since 2002, the dollar has dropped about 38 percent against the euro, and nearly 10 percent since September.

In November 2002, one dollar bought roughly one euro. In early January 2005, it cost \$1.35 to buy one euro, and the dollar is worth about 74 euro cents. However, on Thursday, the dollar jumped 97 percent to \$1.3078 per euro on some currency trading markets.

During 2004, the allowance rate for the euro was adjusted 11 times in Germany, stated Roy Sammarco in an e-mail response to a Stars and Stripes query. Sammarco is chief of the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee's economic and statistics branch, which sets allowances for the Department of Defense.

Periodic cost-of-living adjustments help keep the buying power of overseas American military personnel roughly the same as stateside counterparts, even when the value of the dollar fluctuates, Sammarco wrote. The per diem committee tracks cur-

underpayments should be corrected within an eight-week period.

Over the long run, the hypothetical soldier shouldn't be gaining or losing real income because of currency changes or other financial factors, but simply maintaining his salary's purchasing power as the COLA makes up for — in the current circumstances — the dollar's diminishing value, according to Sammarco.

### Many variables

Myriad other variables go into calculating COLA beyond the value of the dollar against foreign currencies, according to Army documents and interviews with officers and civilian finance officials.



knowl-  
edgeable  
about COLA.

One major COLA factor is base category: full support with exchanges and commissary, partial support, no support or remote. Living on bases with no alternative to shopping on the local economy means larger COLAs.

Another variable is prices at Any Base, USA. While the dropping dollar is part of the COLA equation, so are consumer prices back in the United States. If prices rise because of increasing gas prices for producers and shippers, that could cause cost-of-living adjustments to decrease for soldiers overseas if German prices remain the same. Because remember, COLAs are about making sure that hypothetical soldier has the same buying power whether

he's assigned to relatively inexpensive Fort Campbell, Ky., or comparably expensive USAREUR headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany.

Further, just how much American personnel are buying off base figures into the calculation. Once every three years, the Defense Department conducts a Living Pattern Survey, analyzing what percentage of personnel shop off base, where they shop, the products they buy and the prices they pay, according to Susan Brumbaugh, chief of overseas COLA for the per diem committee. Bases where a higher percentage of personnel shop on the local economy receive a larger adjustment than bases where more people shop on base.

The next Living Pattern Survey for Germany is due this year, said Maj. Susan Walton, deputy director of finance operations at the 266th Finance Command headquarters in Heidelberg.

Retail price schedule surveys track the actual prices for 120 goods and services off-base and on-base and compare them to U.S. prices. In Germany, for example, base support battalions and area support groups conduct the surveys at Ramstein, Heidelberg, Geilenkirchen, Vilsack and Schweinfurt.

Is there one factor that's most important? Not really, say the experts. But currency fluctuations can cause dramatic changes quickly.

In the late 1970s, the growing value of the yen against the dollar caused almost comical imbalances between host country and U.S. forces, said Winslow Wheeler, then a congressional staff aide, now a visiting senior fellow at the Center for Defense Information, a Washington public policy institute.

"For a while, the Japanese sergeant on the base gate had a higher yen salary than the American base commander," Wheeler said.

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### Bank matching tsunami find

A stateside credit union that has 13 branches at military installations in Germany said it would match donation funds for tsunami relief up to \$50,000.

The Service Credit Union is accepting donation money from members and non-members at any of its branches in Germany, New Hampshire or Massachusetts, or online at [www.servicecu.org](http://www.servicecu.org), according to a statement issued Wednesday.

Contributions will be collected until Feb. 28 and then given to AmeriCares, a

nonprofit disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization.

"By matching the contributions received at the credit union, more lives may be saved and fewer victims may go hungry, shelter less or fall prey to disease. Together, we will all have made a difference by helping our fellow man," Gordon Simmons, SCU president and chief executive officer, said in the statement.

For more information on contributing, contact a branch office or the credit union's Contact Center in Germany at 08080-4728-2000.

From staff reports

# Army transformation takes glamorous turn

## Reservist endures emotional journey to be crowned Fox's 'The Swan'

By NANCY MONTGOMERY

Special to Stars and Stripes

Basic training might have been tough. Deployment was no picnic. But Capt. DeLisa Stiles met her most challenging physical and emotional tests on a hit TV show on the Fox network.

Tummy tuck, eye lift, brow lift, breast augmentation: Stiles endured those surgeries and more to become "The Swan," and winner of the Fox makeover show of the same name.

For the first few days after the surgeries, Stiles said, with her eyes swollen to slits and much of her body quite tender, "it was intense," she said. But the 32-year-old Army reservist and reality-show contestant gritted her soon-to-be Zoom-bleached teeth, and her military training kicked in.

"I said to myself, 'You chose this, and you've just got to suck it up,'" she said in an interview recently.

Stiles, the only contestant to receive divorce papers during the show, did indeed suck it up, and went on to win the beauty pageant that is the show's culmination, and, with it, some \$300,000 in cash and (mostly) prizes and a \$100,000 gig as Nutri-System diet company's new spokeswoman. Even if she hadn't won, she said, her willingness to open up her life and her perceived deficiencies to 8 million TV viewers would have been worthwhile.

"I think the TV show was actually helpful," she said. "It held up a mirror to me — Is this what you really want to see?"

Sixteen women were chosen for the show and the surgeries from more than 300,000 letters sent to producers. Eight plus a "wild card" from the dismissed women competed in the pageant. Celebrity judges picked Stiles as the Swan.

A psychologist in civilian life, Stiles would have been facing a much different challenge if a medical problem hadn't sent her back from Kuwait to Fort Riley, Kansas. Assigned to the 468th Quartermaster Battalion in Dallas, Texas, she'd been "cross-leveled" into the 101st Quartermaster Company out of Independence, Kansas — with orders, along with 120 reservists she'd never met, to deploy to Iraq. Stiles made it to Kuwait in 2003 before a blood clot in her arm returned her state-side. "I have such mixed feelings," she said, about missing that tour of duty.

She was put on blood thinners in preparation to join her unit, but when she was cleared to go she was told that because the unit had less than 90 days remaining in Iraq, she wasn't going anywhere.

She saw the first season of "The Swan" while she recuperated at Fort Riley, and decided to try to get on the show's next season. "I mailed hideous pictures of me in my underwear, and they called me for a casting call," she said.

It wasn't just her looks that Stiles thought could use an upgrade. It was also the way she lived her life — apparently content, but full of self-doubt. She thought the show's producers and its viewers might respond to that, she said. She was right.

"The troubled marriage, the false bravado... they thought women could really relate to that," Stiles said. "Women try to be tough and we're filled with self-doubt and we don't want anyone to see that."

Born and raised in Texas, Stiles enlisted in junior ROTC when she was 17, although she didn't come from a military family.

"I felt like it was an important way for me to serve my country," she said. She spent most months in Saudi Arabia during the first Iraq war, her quartermaster unit about 50 miles away from any intense fighting.



Courtesy of Fox

Amanda Byram, left, crowns Capt. DeLisa Stiles as "The Swan" on the second-season finale of Fox's reality television series on Dec. 20, 2004. After months of grueling surgeries and a divorce, Stiles left the pageant with \$300,000 in cash and prizes.

After Desert Storm, Stiles went to college, joined senior ROTC, and eventually got a master's degree in psychology and her commission. But, she told the show's producers, she felt that being in the military had taken a toll on her femininity.

"I just felt like I had this great assertive side, and [the military] taught me to be firm," she said. "But it didn't teach me to be more diplomatic, and to be sort of soft and yielding."

And while she said others viewed her as capable and even daring, she didn't feel that way about herself. "I always chose the safe path," she said.

In addition to the cosmetic surgery and dentistry, contestants on "The Swan" also must follow special diets, engage in rigorous workout programs and have counsel-

ing sessions with both a therapist and a "life coach," who happens to be the Los Angeles-based show's creator and executive producer.

They go through a four-month process of transformation during the show — without contact from their families save some brief phone calls — with their heartaches, frustrations and surgeries laid out for some 8 million viewers.



Photo courtesy DeLisa Stiles

Stiles before her makeover. Now physically transformed after multiple cosmetic surgeries, Stiles says, "I feel like I look the way I always should have looked."

As the show progressed, some of the women went home, surgically enhanced but out of the Miss America-style competition for cash and prizes. Stiles was crowned "The Swan" because she was the one judged to have been most changed and improved.

The show, which is coming up on its third season, has been criticized as tasteless or offensive for encouraging women to undergo painful surgeries to conform to a beauty ideal, and then to compete to see who's best.

But Stiles said none of the women had any regrets, as far as she knew, and neither did she. She maintains that her biggest change was emotional, in that she became comfortable taking risks. And as for her new look? "I feel like I look the way I always should have looked," she said.

She did have concerns that some in the military might think that being on the show was inappropriate for a U.S. military officer, but so far, she said, she's only received good reviews. One e-mail, Stiles said, read "Way to go, Ma'am. Show them we've got really beautiful women in the Army."

Capt. Tyrone Hines, a fellow member of the 468th Quartermaster Battalion, said that nearly everyone there had heard about Stiles' success on the show — although he said he hadn't watched it — and that most everyone found her quite fortunate and wished her well. Stiles' commander could not be reached for comment.

Stiles said she doesn't know if people in her unit will treat her differently now.

"My military record and the way I conduct myself is going to speak for itself," she said. "I won't be wearing false eyelashes. I won't be so glamorous."

Well, maybe, maybe not. Stiles has about seven years before retirement from the Reserves, and she said she's happy as a quartermaster. Hines said bullets: "The Army can't do without them."

Still, what she'd really love to do is go on a USO tour, she said. Most women on USO tours, such as Ann-Margret, tend to glam it up.

Said Stiles, "I know what it's like to be deployed, to have these outrageous hardships and just have it be your life."

"I'd love to meet the commander in chief," she added. "Do you think it would be inappropriate to hug the president?"



# Unions to strike over negotiations

## Italian employees on U.S. bases plan walkout over contract dispute

BY SANDRA JONTZ  
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Italian employees who work on U.S. military bases throughout Italy have planned for three nationwide strikes in the coming weeks to protest the labor agreement being negotiated between U.S. and union officials.

Italian nationals who work at U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy bases throughout the Mediterranean peninsula have planned for strikes, from 8 a.m. until noon, on three Fridays: Jan. 21, Jan. 28, and Feb. 4, officials said.

As of Friday afternoon, base officials at Vicenza had received a notice that some Italian employees might observe a work stoppage on Jan. 21. The base had not received notice of action on any other dates.

Italian workers at Camp Darby were to meet later Friday and base officials there had heard no official word on any potential strike.

At issue are details of the renewal of the Condition of Employment, which governs all aspects of employment service of the roughly 4,400 local nationals on U.S. military facilities in Italy, said Al Spinelli, director of the Human Resources Office at Naval Support Activity, Naples, and Mario Piovesan, a spokesman for FIASCAT-CISL, one of the two Italian unions. ULIVUS-UIL is the other union. Nationwide, the two unions represent about 6 million Italian workers.

Disagreements between U.S. officials and representatives of the two labor unions, who select two to represent Italians who work on

**"We're ready for the possibility that if [the strikes] could be widespread, Italians have the right to strike and we respect that right."**

**Capt. Dave Frederick**  
commander of NSA Naples

U.S. bases, are numerous, and range from benefits and pension packages to working conditions in old buildings on some bases, Piovesan said.

However, at the forefront of the discord are what the unions say are substandard pension plans; rumors of layoffs of 122 employees who work at Navy bases in Sicily, Naples, and at La Maddalena; and employees who perform managerial jobs but are not recognized as managers and thus are not paid managerial salaries, Piovesan said.

Navy officials have been reviewing local national and federal civilian positions throughout Europe, and job cuts are expected at some point, though no time line has been set or specific jobs identified, Lt. Cmdr. Lisa Braun, spokeswoman for Navy Region Europe, said in December.

Officials will try to minimize the number of

people laid off by cutting jobs held by workers finishing contracts or retiring, she had said.

Strikes are customary in Italian culture and happen quite frequently.

"We're ready for the possibility that it could be widespread," said Capt. Dave Frederick, commander of NSA Naples.

"Italians have the right to strike and we respect that right."

All workers can strike, including employees in critical jobs such as firefighters, Frederick said. If need be, Frederick said, he can call in all active-duty firefighters to fill jobs of striking workers.

Other contingency plans are in place for the strike, such as rerouting traffic if strikers protest in front of base gates and shifting workloads, he said.

The upcoming strikes, however, are scheduled for the first four hours of the work day on the designated Fridays and Frederick said he doesn't anticipate too much of a disruption.

U.S. and Italian officials are "neering" an agreement on the Condition of Employment, which is a three-year contract, Spinelli said, but could provide no date. Officials are embroiled in "delicate" talks. This round of negotiations has lasted about 15 months, Spinelli said, far shorter than talks of the past. One time, it took three years to come to an agreement, and another took seven years, he said. However, all previous contracts contain a clause stating that Italian workers continue employment under the existing COE until a new one is signed, he said.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.estripes.osd.mil

### Proposed landing field

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Navy said Friday it has condemned a tract of land that completes the central parcel needed to build a jet landing field in eastern North Carolina.

The newly condemned land some 1,572 acres owned by the McMullen estate, according to Navy spokesman Ted Brown — would be added to approximately 1,100 acres the Navy already has acquired for \$3.7 million.

The Navy's action came Wednesday, about nine days after a federal appeals court overturned a lower court judge's injunction that had stopped all Navy work on the outlying landing field (OLF) project. The injunction had been issued in a lawsuit filed by landing field opponents; a hearing in that case is scheduled for next week.

Brown said Navy agents contacted with Harry McMullen III, trustee for the estate, before condemning the land. With the move, the spokesman said, "the Navy has now completed purchase of land comprising the majority of the core area."

An opponent of the field said Friday that the Navy's action shocked local residents, repeating that after U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield asked the Navy to hold off on land acquisition while anti-OLF lawsuits are resolved.

From The Associated Press

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## COACH CARTER

Coach Ken Carter, who oversees the direction of Richmond High School's basketball program in California, found himself in the center of controversy when he locked out his entire Varsity basketball team (including his own son) in order to motivate and push them to improve their grades. He was even prepared to cancel his entire season after 15 of his 45 players failed to live up to the classroom standards they agreed to in a contract they had signed earlier in the semester. Ken Carter went on to garner national headlines and high praise even from some of his own students, some of whom later earned academic scholarships.

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| Mildenhall           | 28 Jan-03 Feb |
| Ramstein Hercules    | 11-17 Feb     |
| Ramstein Nightingale | 4-10 Feb      |
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| Schweinfurt          | 11-17 Feb     |
| Spangdahlem          | 25 Feb-03 Mar |
| Tafel                | 25 Mar-31 Mar |
| Volkmann             | 11-17 Feb     |
| Vicenza              | 11-17 Mar     |
| Vilseck              | 28 Jan-03 Feb |
| Vogelsberg           | 28 Jan-03 Feb |
| Wiesbaden            | 4-10 Feb      |
| Wuerzburg            | 28 Jan-03 Feb |

AAFE's THEATERS

# Security checks at bases in UK near completion

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Within three months, background checks that began 18 months ago on every non-American employee and contractor with access to U.S. bases in the United Kingdom will be complete.

The effort, however, has forced some people from their jobs.

Capt. Justin White, chief of security forces for Third Air Force at RAF Mildenhall, said the checks being done for the Air Force by the Ministry of Defence vetting office began in June 2003. They are being done to comply with Department of Defense and Air Force regulations put in place five years ago, but ignored in England for more than three years.

"It's taken this long to get it enforced," he said.

A definite deadline of Jan. 3, 2005, was set for compliance after several deadlines had been pushed back.

Since that date, any non-American whose background check has not been completed has required an escort while on U.S. Air Force bases in the United Kingdom and been prevented from entering. It doesn't matter how long they've worked on the base or had access to it.

Eleanora Rodriguez, a Philippine citizen who has worked as a housekeeper for 100th Services Squadron at RAF Mildenhall for 13 months, was told last week she would lose her job.

So was South African Sunell Tarver, who has been a housekeeper for 10 months and is married to Senior Airman Edward Tarver, who is stationed at RAF Mildenhall.

"I just don't understand why," Tarver said Thursday.

Rodriguez had the same reaction.

"I thought they would just renew [my base pass]," she said.

White said workers like these two women lose their jobs because the U.K. government does not have agreements for background checks with their home countries.

"If [Ministry of Defence] cannot do a check, they cannot do an investigation," White said, "which means [the person] cannot be employed."

Master Sgt. James Maher, who works in the security policy office for Third Air Force, said Tarver would maintain access to the base as a military dependent. But, he said, she won't be allowed to work.

"There's a difference between installation access [and the ability to hold a job]," he said.

White said the DOD and Air Force requirements are five years old. In Germany, for example, the checks were done immediately.

For some reason — and White and Maher said they weren't here to know — the checks were not done in the United Kingdom.

Finally, in June 2003, Third Air Force asked the Defence Ministry to do checks on people who are not Americans, but have access to the bases. Originally, a deadline of September 2003 was set.

"We realized that was a little bit unrealistic," White said.

There was a backlog of thousands of checks to be made. Finally, after several other deadlines passed, the Jan. 3 date was set as firm.

"It was a line in the sand," he said. With that announcement made, the applications began flowing in from commands and units across the United Kingdom. White said 250 or more a month were being sent in and passed to the ministry's vetting office, which is paid by the Air Force to do the checks.

In that time, thousands of people have been approved and are now equipped with the proper U.S. Air Forces in Europe pass required for base entry. Some, however, have lost their jobs.

The checks are now part of an application for a non-American seeking work on the base or access as a contractor.

But White said, the ministry is still catching up on the overlooked checks, an effort that might be completed in 90 days.

"The backlog," he said, "should be gone."

# Crime rates near Gricignano housing keep Americans on alert

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

CASERTA, Italy — It's not the Wild West, but crime is high in Caserta province, home to many Americans living in the Naples area where the Navy's Gricignano base housing is located.

Important to note, however, is that Americans aren't targeted simply because they're Americans. U.S. and Italian officials said.

"I'm not overwhelmed every day by reports of American homes being burglarized" and Americans being the victims of crime, said Deborah Rocco, a special agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service at Naval Support Activity, Naples. "There is no indication that Americans are being targeted."

And if Americans are the unfortunate victims of crime, typically it's a crime against property, the officials said.

About 160 American families live off base in the province in towns popular with Americans, such as Succivo, Aversa, Casal di Principe and Marcianise.

Of Italy's 108 provinces, Caserta routinely ranks in the daily top 10 of arrests made, which can be linked directly to the high number of crimes being committed, said Col. Carmelo Burgo, provincial commander of the Caserta carabinieri station.

To put that statistic into perspective, a portion of Tuesday's national police blotter of arrests reads as follows: Police in the province of Rome, which includes the capital's suburbs and boasts a population of 3.6 million people, netted 34 arrests, the southern province of Bari, with a population of 1.5 million, reported eight arrests; the province of Naples,



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

with 3 million population, reported six arrests; and Caserta, with 900,000 people, logged four arrests.

Burgo said crime in Caserta province could be simplified into two categories: organized crime and everything else. Residents' biggest threats are "petty crimes" such as break-ins, stolen cars, or Gypsies slipping handbags into pockets and purses to steal wallets, he said.

Several factors contribute to the high crime rate, including the easy and speedy highway access from downtown Naples for drug traffickers, a high unemployment rate, and the high number of illegal immigrants who can't find work and resort to petty crimes, Burgo said.

Crooks go after soft and vulnerable targets, Rocco said, along with targets of opportunity. She said common sense goes a long, long way toward protecting oneself.

## Home protection tips

Americans living on the economy can protect their homes by either installing protective measures themselves — if not already available — or trying to persuade

make sure the purse fits snugly under an arm.

"[To criminals, victims] are no different, whether they are American or Italian," Burgo said. "Some criminals" need money for drugs and when they see targets, they attack."

## Protecting vehicles

Southern Italians, particularly Neapolitans, are notorious for protecting their vehicles from theft by installing devices such as alarms and steering column blocks.

An ironic twist is that the protection helped contribute to the increased number of carjackings, Burgo said.

Since it's more difficult for thieves to steal a protected parked car, they've resorted to taking them when protective devices aren't in use — when the driver is behind the wheel.

To avoid carjackings, motorists always should drive with their doors locked, shut off the engine and take keys with them when leaving the vehicle, and drive to a

safe and well-lighted area if they believe they've been involved in a minor traffic collision. Carjackers routinely fake a crash to get the driver to step out of their vehicles, officials have reported.

If approached by a carjacker, hand over the keys, Burgo strongly urged.

"They... are likely to use violence and they are able to kill," he said.

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## Tips for shoppers

When out on the town, don't draw attention to yourself by showing off lots of cash or wearing flashy or expensive jewelry, he said. If shopping and you need to carry cash, store small amounts in various pockets to avoid pulling out a large wad. If women can avoid carrying a purse, that's best; otherwise,



Burgo

# Georgia officials suspend First Command

## 90-day penalty comes after finance company misled military personnel, investigators say

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Georgia officials will bar First Command Financial Planning from selling any insurance products for 90 days for what it says is a warning not to victimize military personnel again, according to the state's insurance commissioner.

"Whenever we're talking about taking advantage of our men and women in uniform, you've got to be pre-emptive and send a strong signal," Commissioner John W. Oxendine said this week. "We're saying, 'When you sell insurance in Georgia, you're not going to hurt our military.'"

The three-month suspension comes weeks after First Command agreed to pay an \$8 million fine and refund about \$4 million to customers who bought certain mutual funds from the firm between 1999 and 2004. Company officials did not

admit to, or deny, the charges.

Federal regulators said they had found company salespeople misled military personnel about costs and returns in First Command's systematic investment plans. The company has since stopped offering the funds.

The ruling did not involve any of the firm's insurance products, but Oxendine said it did raise concerns among officials in his department that the company may have taken advantage of military personnel in other sales practices.

"This is a concerted effort to protect our soldiers and to make sure [First Command] cleans up their act," he said.

The suspension is scheduled to begin Feb. 1, and the company will be put on probation by the state for one year after that. First Command officials said they will appeal the decision.

"We are unaware that there has been any client or regulatory complaints regarding our insurance sales in the state of Georgia," company spokesman Paul Corby said in a statement. "No

**John W. Oxendine**  
Georgia insurance commissioner

negative assertions were made by [federal regulators] regarding our insurance business.

"We applaud the efforts of any regulatory body to protect the interests of our ser-

vicemen and women. We look forward to discussing this matter with Georgia insurance officials and intend to cooperate with the Georgia department of insurance fully in resolving this matter."

According to SEC estimates, about 40 percent of the current active duty general officers, about one-third of the commissioned officers, and about 16 percent of noncommissioned officers are customers of First Command. The firm's client total is just under 300,000, and the majority of its sales agents are retired military officers.

Last week Georgia insurance officials announced American-Amicable Life Insurance will pay about \$1.3 million to more than 900 Georgia servicemen who were sold policies while in training, which is prohibited under Department of Defense policies and Georgia insurance sales regulations.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.com

**"This is a concerted effort to protect our soldiers, and to make sure [First Command] cleans up their act."**

## Missing Marine one of Navy's 'most wanted'

The Associated Press

WEST JORDAN, Utah — A Marine who was declared a deserter days before military court proceedings stemming from an earlier disappearance from Iraq has been placed on a list of "most wanted" fugitives.

A mug shot of Marine Cpl. Wassaf Ali Hassoun appeared this week on a Navy criminal justice Web site,

which claims the missing corporal now uses the alias "Jafar." His placement on the Navy list puts him among a select group of fugitives, some of whom are being hunted on allegations of terrorism, murder, conspiracy to commit murder, indecent assault and rape.

Military officials say they have no information about the 24-year-old man's whereabouts, and have been unable to confirm news reports that Hassoun was in Canada or Lebanon. Officials at his base at Camp Lejeune, N.C., did

not immediately return a message left after hours seeking comment.

Military officials say that Hassoun has no passport. And Mohammad Hassoun, a brother, confirmed reports from Lebanese government officials that the Marine is not allowed back in that country.

Hassoun's family has said they last heard from him Dec. 29.

When he failed to arrive at his base in Camp Lejeune, N.C., by Jan. 5, Hassoun was declared a deserter for a second time.

Hassoun was an Arabic translator for the military when he first disappeared from his post in Iraq last summer. He later surfaced in Lebanon where he claimed he had been kidnapped. Al-Jazeera Television showed video of Hassoun blindfolded.

A five-month investigation by the Navy found that Hassoun had stolen a Humvee and fled his camp near Falluja. On Thursday, a pre-trial hearing on charges of desertion and theft was postponed because Hassoun remains missing.

Hassoun is a Muslim with citizenship in both the United States and Lebanon.

Family members in both Utah and Lebanon have called on the corporal to surrender.



Hassoun

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## Navy to choose builder of next Marine One

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon gave the Navy the green light Thursday to choose a company to build the next presidential helicopter fleet. A final selection is expected after stock markets close on Jan. 18.

The Navy will determine whether Maryland-based Lockheed Martin Corp. or Connecticut-based Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. will supply the next Marine One, the highly visible aircraft that shuttles the president on short trips.

Winning the \$1.6 billion contract for 23 aircraft won't make or break Lockheed or Sikorsky parent United Technologies Corp., both industry giants. But the contract has become a bellwether of competing interests: the outsourcing of American jobs versus how open the U.S. military market is to foreign contractors.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi are among those who have lobbied President Bush to choose Lockheed's US101, which is based on a British-Italian AgustaWestland aircraft, now owned by Finmeccanica.

From The Associated Press

# Graver found guilty of Abu Ghraib abuse

## GI takes stand, says he was ordered to abuse prisoners

BY T.A. BADGER

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — Army Spc. Charles Graner Jr., the suspected ringleader of the Abu Ghraib prison abuse, took the stand for the first time Saturday and said he was ordered by interrogators to physically mistreat and sexually humiliate prisoners.

Speaking a day after his conviction for the abuse, Graner described himself as a by-the-book prison guard who was corrupted by higher-ranking soldiers.

He said he initially resisted pressure to mistreat prisoners, but his Army superiors made it clear to him that he was expected to obey the commands of the military and civilian intelligence agencies who ran his part of Abu Ghraib.

Graner said a lieutenant in his unit told him, "If [military intelligence] asks you to do this, it must be done. They're in charge, follow their orders."

Graner, a 36-year-old reservist from Uniontown, Pa., was convicted Friday of abusing Iraqi detainees in a case that sparked international outrage when photographs were released that showed reservists smiling and laughing as they humiliated prisoners.

He did not testify during the 41-day trial, but took the stand Saturday as his sentencing hearing resumed.

The first soldier to be court-martialed in the scandal, Graner was convicted of all five charges and faces up to 15 years behind bars.

Four other soldiers have pleaded guilty in the case, and three others are awaiting trial.

Graner's verdict came in less than five hours of deliberations after a trial in which prosecutors depicted him as a sadistic soldier who took great pleasure in seeing

detainees suffer.

"It was for sport, for laughs," prosecutor Capt. Chris Graveline told jurors in his closing argument Friday.

"What we have here is plain abuse. There is no justification."

A jury of four Army officers and six senior enlisted men rejected Graner's defense that he was following orders at Abu Ghraib, but he revived that rationale Saturday.

He said he now knows that those orders were unlawful, but "at the time, my understanding is that they were [lawful], or I wouldn't have done them," he said.

Graner spoke for nearly three hours as an "unsworn statement," meaning he was not subjected to cross-examination by prosecutors.

He finished up his statement by saying, "I didn't enjoy what I did there ... A lot of it was wrong, a lot of it was criminal."

Given the choice between prison time or a dishonorable discharge, he said he'd rather serve a term behind bars.

"I still want to be a part of the Army," he said.

"Do you think you have anything to offer?" asked his lawyer, Guy Womack.

"I think I do," Graner responded.

Labeled the ringleader of a band of abusive guards at Abu Ghraib, Graner admitted "terrorizing" prisoners believed to have valuable information in order to send them up for interrogators.

One of the notorious photographs that ignited the Abu Ghraib scandal shows Graner preparing to punch a hooded detainee, while another shows him smiling while posing behind a pyramid of naked prisoners.

He said the intelligence agents used a variety of methods to fa-



Army Spc. Charles Graner Jr. walks through a crowd Friday at Fort Hood, Texas, after he was convicted of abusing Iraqi detainees. Graner, the first soldier to be court-martialed in the scandal, was convicted of all five charges and faces up to 15 years behind bars.

tigue and stress the prisoner, like keeping them in isolation, depriving them of sleep and food, shining bright lights in their eyes and yelling and screaming in their face.

Other photos used as evidence against Graner showed prisoners hooded and handcuffed to their cells, one being led around on a leash and a group of prisoners masturbating and simulating oral sex.

"A lot of the off-the-wall stuff was from civilian interrogators, but also some of the craziness came from a lot of the soldiers who were the military handlers," he said, adding that the photos were an expression of dark humor arising from extreme stress.

Womack asked him why he was smiling in those photos, some of which were shown while Gran-

er spoke.

"I'm smiling now, and that's a nervous smile," Graner said.

"There was a lot of things that we did that were so screwed up, if you didn't look at them as funny, there was no way to deal with it."

His mother, Irma, who testified

Friday in the sentencing phase, described her son as a kind and gentle man who faithfully served his country.

"He is not the monster he's made out to be," she said quietly.

"In my eyes, he'll always be a hero."

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# Soldier convicted of murder in shooting of injured Iraqi teen

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A U.S. military judge convicted an Army sergeant of murder Friday for the alleged murder of a severely injured Iraqi teenager, and sentenced him to a year's imprisonment.

Staff Sgt. Cardenas J. Alban of Inglewood, Calif., is the second soldier convicted of shooting the wounded 16-year-old as U.S. forces battled an uprising in Baghdad's Shiite Muslim stronghold of Sadr City in August.

Witnesses say U.S. soldiers found the teenager in a burning truck apparently set alight by fighting.

The Americans decided severe burns and abdominal wounds put the teenager beyond help and that "the best course of action was to put [the victim] out of his misery," a criminal investigator said.

A judge convicted Alban of murder and conspiracy to commit murder during a one-day hearing Friday in Baghdad, the military said in a statement.

He was sentenced to one year's confinement, detention to private, and a bad-conduct discharge.

Staff Sgt. Johnny M. Horne Jr., also with the Fort Riley, Kan.-based 41st Infantry regiment, was sentenced in December to three years in prison after pleading guilty in the same killing.

Separately, Army Capt. Rogelio Maymulet of Chicago faces a Feb. 22 court-martial in Germany for allegedly shooting and killing a man who was gravely wounded when U.S. fighters opened fire on his vehicle last May south of Baghdad.

A fellow officer told a preliminary military hearing that dispatching the wounded man was "the compassionate response" on Maymulet's part.

Rights groups criticize the court-martials for illegal killings of Iraqis, saying the slayings violate international law and should be tried as war crimes.

Critics also accuse the U.S. military of hazy training on the rules of engagement that they say contribute to the illegal killing of civilians.

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# Iraq OKs some voter registration on election day

BY JASON KEYSER

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqis in two of the country's most troubled provinces will be permitted to register and vote on the day of elections, the head of Iraq's electoral commission said Saturday.

Commission Chairman Abdul-Hussein Hendawi also said he expected a same-day preliminary vote count. Tallying final results from the Jan. 30 elections could take as long as 10 days.

In the face of increasing concerns about security during the election period, authorities have agreed to let voters register and cast ballots on the same day in Anbar and Ninevah provinces, Hendawi said.

The two provinces, home to restive cities like Fallujah and Mosul, have suffered frequent insurgent strikes and deadly clashes involving U.S. forces, raising questions about whether voting

will be able to precede in parts of those areas.

In an apparent bid to head off car bombings on election day, Iraqi authorities will restrict the use of automobiles throughout the country and will place security cordons around polling stations, a Cabinet minister said Saturday.

Provincial Affairs minister Wael Abdel-Latif gave no details on how cars would be restricted, but security sources have said authorities are considering banning the use of private vehicles Jan. 29-31.

Abdel-Latif also pledged that the government of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi would provide adequate security for voters, but he acknowledged that the security situation in four of the country's 18 provinces was unstable.

Iraqi security forces will shoulder the prime responsibility for protecting voters on election day, but the U.S.-led multinational force will provide support if asked, Abdel-Latif said.



Iraqi volunteers paste electoral posters at a wall in Baghdad on Saturday.

Some 14 million Iraq residents are eligible to vote in the election for a 275-seat legislature that will run the country, draft a permanent constitution and choose a president and prime minister.

Another 1.2 million eligible Iraqi voters living abroad can cast ballots in 14 countries, including the United States, Iran, Syria, Britain and Sweden.

A violent intimidation campaign by insurgents has kept

voter registrations light in areas north and west of the capital. In particular, rebels have gunned down election officials and members of the U.S.-trained Iraqi forces.

Iraqis wanting to vote in Iraq's 16 other provinces will have to register ahead of time, as planned, Hendawi said.

Meanwhile, a local government building in the city of Ramadi was hit with rocket-propelled grenades, and groups of armed men were seen roaming the streets of the city, where markets and shops were shuttered. There was no immediate word on casualties.

Baghdad University Vice-President Nihad Mohammed al-Rawi escaped an assassination attempt Saturday by gunmen who fired on his car in the city's Jadriyah

neighborhood, security officials said. One of his bodyguards was wounded, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

Killings of Iraq's intellectuals and professionals were common after the March 2003 invasion but had dropped off in recent months.

Also, 15 Iraqi soldiers were still missing after insurgents pulled them off a public bus Friday in the latest assault on Iraqi security forces. Rebels stopped the bus, screened its passengers for the Iraqi security troops and set the vehicle ablaze.

In another development Saturday, the Defense Ministry confirmed a report in a major Arabic daily that an Iraqi woman trained by members of Saddam Hussein's regime in Syria tried to assassinate the defense minister but fainted before carrying out her mission.

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## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, at least 1,360 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,071 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is two higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths, Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,222 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 962 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier with the 1st Infantry division was killed Thursday near Mosul.

■ A soldier was killed Thursday by a roadside bomb in Mosul.

■ Two Marines were killed Thursday in Anbar province. The latest identifications reported by military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew W. Hallows, 21, Fulton, Texas, and Marine Lance Cpl. Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez Velasco, 23, El Cienzo, Texas, killed Thursday in an explosion in Anbar province, assigned to the Marine Reserve's 1st Battalion, 23rd Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Corpus Christi, Texas.

■ Army Sgt. 1st Class Brian A. Mack, 36, Phoenix, killed Thursday in an explosion in Mosul, assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

■ Army Pfc. Gunnar D. Becker, 19, Forestburg, S.D., died Thursday in Mosul of non-combat injuries, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 63rd Army Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Vicksburg, Germany.

## IN THE WORLD



U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, second from right, arrives Saturday in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Wolfowitz said Washington was eager to hand off the control of operations to the affected nations.

# Wolfowitz: Troops to leave S. Asia as soon as feasible

## Official hopes tsunami missions end 'long before March'

BY JIM GOMEZ  
The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — The United States is eager to end its military tsunami relief operation as soon as Indonesia and other stricken nations are ready to take over, U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said Saturday.

The U.S. military wants "to try as quickly as we can to hand over responsibility to others and especially to the Indonesian government as they're ready to take that on," Wolfowitz said after taking a helicopter tour of Aceh province's ravaged coast and meeting with the country's military chief, Gen. Endriarto Sutoro.

A huge earthquake and the tsunami it spawned killed more than 157,000 people across 11 countries, triggering an unprecedented global response. The United States was quick to deploy thousands of troops to help in the relief effort, and American helicopter pilots have made hundreds of flights to deliver aid to Sumatra's coastal communities.

Still, Indonesia has expressed unease with the number of foreign troops on its territory as part of the relief effort and wants them out before the end of March.

Wolfowitz said the U.S. military role would wind down by that deadline. "I would hope that we would not be needed [in the region] as a military long before March," he said during the flight to Asia, according to a transcript of his remarks released at the Pentagon.

A one-time ambassador to Indonesia, Wolfowitz said cooperation with Jakarta has been very good. When asked if it's possible the tsunami disaster will help bring reconciliation between the military and rebels in Aceh, he said that if the reconstruction is a success, people in Aceh will "see the benefit of being part of Indonesia."

The rebels, who want an independent homeland, have declared a cease-fire, and the government has said it is pursuing a permanent treaty. But there has been no word on actual peace talks.

# Abbas sworn in as crises mount

BY MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH  
The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Mahmoud Abbas was sworn in as Palestinian Authority president on Saturday and started his job with two crises: Israel cut contacts with him until he reins in militants and 46 election officials resigned amid allegations of irregularities in the vote that brought Abbas to power.

In the Gaza Strip, seven Palestinian militants killed six Israeli civilians at a Gaza cargo crossing. The renewed violence dampened expectations that had been fanned by the election victory of the moderate Abbas — that the two sides could break out of their deadlock after more than four years of fighting.

In his inaugural speech in Ramallah, Abbas said he extends his hand in peace to Israel, called for a cease-fire and said he was committed to the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

However, he made no direct mention of how he would deal with the militants — the most pressing item on his agenda. Abbas only said he would enforce the rule of law and deepen the dialogue "with various Palestinian factions, an apparent reference to his attempt to negotiate a cease-fire with militants."

Abbas did not refer to Israel's decision to suspend contacts until he takes action against the armed groups. Israel announced the boycott Friday, in response to the attack on the Gaza crossing, with one Israeli official saying the gunmen had apparently set out from a Palestinian Authority base.

## 46 election officials quit

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Forty-six members of the Palestinian election commission, including top managers, resigned Saturday, saying they were pressured by Mahmoud Abbas' campaign and intelligence officials to abruptly change voting procedures during the Jan. 9 presidential poll.

Two senior members of the commission, Ammar Dwaik and Baha al-Bakri, resigned early Saturday, and officials later said 44 more members resigned. Six top election officials were among those who resigned.

The resignations raised questions about the election that gave Abbas an overwhelming victory with 62.3 percent, though the officials who quit said the alleged irregularities did not fundamentally affect the final vote tally.

"This proves that what happened is very serious and it must not happen again," said Dwaik, the commission's deputy chairman.

— The Associated Press

Israeli officials welcomed Abbas' call to end violence, but said he must translate that into action.

Abbas struck a largely conciliatory tone Saturday, saying Israelis and Palestinians are "destined to live side by side and to share this land." He condemned all violence, including the Gaza attack.

# Pilgrims converge in Mecca

The Associated Press

MECCA, Saudi Arabia — Pilgrims streaming into Islam's holy city for the annual hajj prayed for the 157,000 people killed in last month's tsunami that devastated South Asia, asking God to give survivors the courage to cope.

The tragedy weighed heavy as the spiritual journey geared up.

Indonesia — the world's most populous Muslim nation with 220 million people — was hit hardest by the natural disaster, but 200,000 Indonesians, the country's quota, still were expected in Mecca.

One Indonesian man spoke of his surprise over the dozens of strangers who noticed his nationality printed on the pouch around his neck and approached to offer condolences for the more than 100,000 Indonesians who died Dec. 26. Another Indonesian found a quiet spot to pray for a lost friend.

Mohamed Saleh, a teacher from Jakarta, stood outside the city's Grand Mosque and prayed, his hands raised and his eyes filled with tears.

"I have lost a friend in the tsunami, and I pray for him and the souls of all those that have perished," said Saleh, 50. "I pray that God will mend broken hearts and give them courage to overcome the grief."



Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims perform Friday prayers at the great mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on Friday. Many pilgrims who streamed into Islam's holy city for the annual hajj asked God to give tsunami survivors the courage to cope.

AP

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# Images reveal orange surface on Saturn moon

BY MELISSA EDDY  
The Associated Press

DARMSTADT, Germany — New, refined pictures from Saturn's moon Titan released Saturday show a pale orange surface covered by a thin haze of methane and what appears to be a methane sea complete with islands and a mist-shrouded coastline.

Space officials worked through the night to sharpen the new photos taken by the space probe Huygens, which snapped the images Friday as it plunged through Titan's atmosphere before landing by parachute on the surface.

Many scientists at the European Space Agency center in Darmstadt, Germany, looked tired from their overnight work but were still clearly elated about the successful arrival of data from Huygens the day before — a major triumph for the European space program.

"The instruments performed brilliantly," said John Zarnecki, in

charge of the surface instruments. "We can't find a single missing data frame. The link and the quality of the data was absolutely superb."

Officials played back sound gathered from Huygens' microphone at the surface — a whooshing noise they did not identify. But the center of attention was the pictures.

One shot taken from an altitude of 10 miles showed dark lines that suggested stream beds carved by liquid flowing into a dark area suspected to be a sea of liquid methane — with light areas in the dark that could be islands.

"It is almost impossible to resist speculating that the flat dark material is some kind of drainage channel, that we are seeing some kind of a shoreline," said scientist Marty Tomasko from the University of Arizona, head of the camera team. "We still don't know if it has liquid in it."

Titan's notorious haze — which has kept astronomers from get-



ESA/NASA UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA/AP

This image was returned by the ESA's Huygens probe during its descent to land on Titan.

ting a better picture through telescopes — is obvious in the two refined images shown Saturday.

An image taken on the surface shows chunks of what scientists say looks like water ice scattered over an orange surface overcast by methane haze. On Friday, the chunks were described as boulder-sized, but overnight examination showed they are much smaller and simply look big because they are close to Huygens' camera.

# EU set to expend \$1B on translation

BY RAF CASERT  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Translation costs at the European Union are set to pass a billion dollars a year as the economic bloc struggles to accommodate 10 new members after its expansion into Eastern Europe and the Baltics, officials said.

Critics chafe at the sum, but to many it's money well spent in keeping Europe's quilt of cultures — and national egos — intact.

The 10 new members that joined in May expanded the EU to 25 and added nine new languages for a total of 20. Once the many cross-translation services this requires are at full speed, the overall costs will rise to \$1.06 billion per year, from about \$720 million now, according to European Commission documents published Friday.

Interpretation costs may reach \$132 million in 2007, up from \$137 million last year.

Together, funding this unique system will take almost \$2.62 out of the pocket of every EU citizen every year. Many EU citizens have balked at the cost and called for a drastic reduction in the number of languages used officially.

The United Nations, with far more member nations, uses only six official languages, critics note. But Europe's Tower of Babel is essential, said Ian Andersen, a department head at the Directorate General for Interpretation.

"There is no way around it if you want to work in a community of law," he told reporters. When EU laws are binding on its citizens, they should be able to consult them in their own language.

"It is the democratic right of everyone who participates in decision-making to make their point and to have access to information on an equal footing," said Andersen, a Dane.

Language rights run even deeper than that, say the defenders of maximal translation: Take Swedish away from the Swedes, or Portuguese from the Portuguese, or Maltese from the residents of the Mediterranean island, and you have taken something essential.

It gets more complicated yet. Many in Spain are lobbying for the regional tongues of Catalan, Basque and Galician to get official EU status too. Some seek the same for Ireland's Gaelic. Further planned expansions of the bloc could bring in Romanian, Bulgarian, Turkish and Croatian.

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## IN THE STATES

# Engineers help relieve dam pressure

## 2,300 evacuated from nearby Calif. town; Midwest recovering from rains

BY RYAN PEARSON  
The Associated Press

CORONA, Calif. — Thousands of residents who were evacuated from the path of a leaking dam were urged to stay away through Monday after authorities released a torrent of water to ease pressure on the barrier.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Friday unleashed more than 10,000 cubic feet of water per second to relieve pressure on the dam 50 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

"That's like a swimming pool every second," Corona Mayor Darrell Talbert said.

The water gushed into the Santa Ana River, whose banks were deep enough to handle the flow without flooding, said Lt. Col. John Guenther, deputy commander of the corps' Los Angeles district.

Police evacuated 2,300 people but called off the mandatory evacuation order late Friday afternoon. However, they advised residents not to return until Monday as a precaution.

The dam problems followed a series of

storms since last week that turned Southern California into one big flood zone. The torrential rain triggered a mudslide in the tiny town of La Conchita that killed 10 people and damaged several homes. In all, 28 people died in the state from the storms.

Residents of La Conchita were allowed to return to their homes Friday, but it will take two to four more weeks for water service to be restored and two to seven days for gas and electricity to be turned back on.

The storms that saturated California also drenched the Midwest, and rivers in parts of Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio still were above flood stage Saturday. The Ohio River had earlier flooded riverbank roads and homes in parts of West Virginia.

On Friday, the floodgates at Paducah, Ky., were closed along the Ohio for the first time since 1997.

Even though no more rain is expected for several days, Indiana's Wabash River is expected to hit its highest level since February 1985 this weekend and next week south of Lafayette, said meteorologist

Chad Omitt at the National Weather Service in Indianapolis.

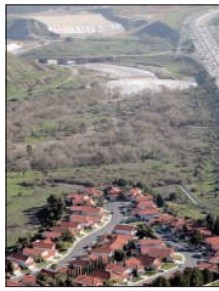
Governors of Ohio and Indiana declared emergencies in flood areas earlier in the week, and on Friday Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels asked President Bush to declare at least 64 counties a major federal disaster area.

In Corona, nearly 1,000 homes in town and about 100 people from a recreational vehicle park in an adjoining area were evacuated, forming a slow caravan of cars that snaked through the neighborhoods.

At an evacuation center in the high school gymnasium, Corona officials defended their decision to evacuate.

Corona Police Chief Richard Gonzales said seepage at the base of the dam had increased fivefold after it was detected Thursday evening. The seepage came from a temporary earthen barrier protecting construction crews who were relocating outlet channels and raising the dam's height by 28 feet.

"I'm sorry if we woke you up, I'm sorry if we got you out of your home. ... I wasn't gonna lose any of you, period," he said to a round of applause.



Excess rainwater and a leak from the Prado Dam threaten to flood this neighborhood in Corona, Calif. More than 2,000 people were evacuated Friday from the floodpath.

## Fire at recycling plant has Ind. town watching, waiting

The Associated Press

ANDERSON, Ind. — A magnesium fire at a recycling plant that forced thousands to evacuate their homes may take days to burn itself out since fire-fighters have given up trying to extinguish the blaze themselves.

The fire erupted at the Advanced Magnesium Alloys Corp. plant around 5 p.m. Friday, but explosions forced firefighters out less than three hours later, said police Detective Terry Sollars.

No injuries were reported. At midmorning Saturday, several dozen fire and police officers remained posted around the plant, keeping watch on the fire that had grown considerably smaller overnight but continued to smolder, Sollars said.

Representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were at the scene.

"They're taking tests of the air quality before they let anyone back in. We're not sure when that might happen," Sollars said.

Magnesium is a silvery-white, highly flammable metal. Burning magnesium produces irritating or toxic fumes and is typically extinguished using dry sand since water can cause a flare-up or explosion.

"God doesn't have enough sand in Anderson," Fire Chief J.R. Rosenkrans said. By 9 p.m. Friday, he had decided to let the fire burn itself out.

Authorities evacuated 3,000 to 5,000 people from an area about one mile wide and two miles long that wind at the path of the smoke, which was carried by wind at about 5 mph, Sollars said.



A fire at the Advanced Magnesium Alloys Corp. plant, a magnesium recycling facility in Anderson, Ind., spews toxic fumes, forcing authorities to evacuate several thousand people from their homes Friday.

## Search resumes for five feared lost in avalanche

BY PAUL FOY  
The Associated Press

PARK CITY, Utah — Searchers returned to the site of a massive avalanche near a Utah ski resort on Saturday, hoping to find the bodies of five people feared dead under 30 feet of snow.

The rescue effort was halted before sunset Friday because of concerns over secondary slides, but avalanche charges were dropped from helicopters overnight to make the area safer.

Crews returned around 8 a.m. to search an area 500 yards wide outside the boundary of The Canyons resort on federal land in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

The exact number of people caught in the Friday afternoon slide was not yet known, but Summit County Sheriff's Capt. Alan Siddoway said officials knew of five unaccounted for skiers and had descriptions of clothing and equipment for some of them.

Authorities changed the focus of the operation from rescue to recovery before suspending the search Friday.

"I think it's safe to say the odds

of surviving are very, very low," Summit County Sheriff Dave Edmunds said Friday night.

The area where the avalanche occurred was marked with a skull and crossbones to discourage thrill-seekers. Skier Jess Fleig, a 35-year-old disc jockey, said he frequents the backcountry but stayed away from that area Friday.

"What immediately came to mind is that's trouble waiting to happen," said Fleig, speaking on a cell phone from a mountaintop.

About 100 search and rescue workers, rescue dog crews and members of ski patrols from Summit County resorts searched the area for victims, Edmunds said. The enormity of the slide was underscored when rescuers, working on 30-degree slopes, found that their 20-foot probes weren't going deep enough into the snow.

Even before Friday, this had already been one of the deadliest winters for avalanches in Utah since records were first kept in 1951. Before Friday, six people had died in slides; no previous winter had seen more than six deaths.

## Bush says Social Security system headed for bankruptcy

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Saturday that Social Security "is on the road to bankruptcy" and will be unable to pay promised benefits to future generations, raising the stakes in a major political battle with Democrats.

Bush used his weekly radio address to try to build support for his plan to allow workers to divert part of their Social Security

payroll taxes into private investment accounts. Democrats accuse him of exaggerating the problem to sell a plan that would scale back Social Security.

Bush said the cost of fixing the system grows larger each year, and he quoted Social Security trustees as saying that waiting just one year would add \$600 billion to the price of a solution.

"If we do not act now, government will eventually be left with two choices: dramati-

cally reduce benefits or impose a massive economically ruinous tax increase," the president said. According to experts, in the year 2018 Social Security will start paying out more in benefits than it collects in payroll taxes. In 2042, it will be able to cover only about 73 percent of benefits owed, unless changes are made.

Democrats countered Bush's arguments in their address an hour later. Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan said her party is wait-

ing for a detailed proposal from Bush. But she said one White House memo suggests he wants to cut benefits for future workers by up to 45 percent.

"The benefit cuts would apply to all seniors—even those who choose not to invest in privatized accounts," Stabenow contended.

Social Security does face long-term challenges, she said, but private investment isn't the answer.



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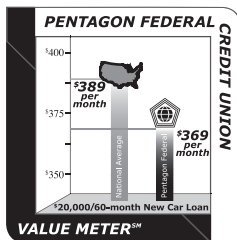


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# Confirmation hearings may test Rice's stamina

BY JAMES BROSNAN

Scraps Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, who in college feared she was destined to play show tunes in a piano bar, faces a demanding gig this week before climbing another rung up from the segregation of her childhood in Alabama.

On the eve of President Bush's inaugural Thursday, his nominee for secretary of state is expected to face tough questions at Senate confirmation hearings about her own credibility and administration policies in Iraq, where more than 1,300 American soldiers have died.

No one doubts Rice will be confirmed by the Senate, but the Foreign Relations Committee hearings Tuesday and possibly Wednesday will be a test of her ability to handle herself on a stage where she will appear frequently, as well as a chance for her to expound on Bush's foreign policy aims for his second term.

Democrats plan to challenge Rice in a way they never did with her predecessor, Colin Powell, who four years ago breezed through a 4½-hour hearing.

"I'm going to have a lot of questions," said Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis. "It ranges all the way from how in the world she could have been persuaded that going into Iraq was a good idea to some very specific things on the information the president used."

The committee is loaded with liberal Democrats, including Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., Bush's foe in the 2004 election.

Republicans are confident she's up for the confrontation.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Dick Lugar, R-Ind., said, "I don't think they will be all members. We've indicated to all members they should have a full opportunity to ask all the questions."

As was the case with Bush's nominee for attorney general, Alberto Gonzales, Rice, 50, is likely to be acknowledged by senators from both parties as someone who achieved great heights in the face of discrimination.

"I grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, before the civil rights movement — a place that was once described, with no exaggeration, as the most thoroughly segregated city in the country," Rice recalled at Vanderbilt University last year.

Rice had one advantage. Her parents, John and Angelina Rice, now deceased, were college graduates at a time when few Southern blacks got beyond high school. Her father, a Presbyterian pastor, became dean of Stillman College and her mother taught music and science at an all-black school.

Rice claims she could read music before she could read words, but in studying music at the University of Denver she was "confronted with the incontrovertible fact that I was good, but not great."

A course in international relations from Czech refugee Josef Korbel, father of the first woman secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, put Rice on a new path. Graduate degrees in international relations followed from the University of Notre Dame and University of Denver.

Rice served on President Bush's national security staff as a specialist on the Soviet Union and

was provost at Stanford University when his son tapped her to become his foreign policy adviser in the 2000 campaign.

The hearings are important, according to Leon Fuerth, who was national security adviser to former Vice President Al Gore.

"How she handles herself under questioning becomes part of the first impression everyone gets of her as secretary of state," he said.



National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice walks to the West Wing of the White House in 2003. Rice, President Bush's nominee for secretary of state, faces confirmation hearings in the Senate this week.

AP



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# Bush seized moment, hasn't let go

By CONNIE CASS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tumultuous times seem to fit George W. Bush.

His presidency was up to a lachrymose start in 2001, quiet months before Sept. 11, 2001. After the terrorists struck, Bush told the nation, "We have found our mission and our moment."

His presidency also fit its purpose. He seized the moment. He grew in stature and confidence, rising above the gibes about his intellect and a disputed election, and for a while became a living symbol of American resolve. He hasn't looked back.

Bush's responses to the attacks — declaring war against terror at home, in Afghanistan and in Iraq — have made him a galvanizing and towering figure, not only in the United States but in the world. Few modern leaders have so shaped history by dint of their own will.

Now Bush, 58, begins a hard-won second term ready to focus more of that will on reshaping America. He is determined to "transform" — one of his favorite words — Social Security, the income tax code, the civil justice system and more.

Let history settle whether Bush was indeed the right man for the times, whether he acted with necessary boldness or brashly

overreached. Either way, the times have been surprisingly right for Bush the man.

"Crisis is suited to his personality," said Erwin C. Hargrove, Vanderbilt University professor emeritus of political science. "He likes to rise to the challenge."

Bush has made hay of low expectations ever since the days when then-Gov. Ann Richards of Texas dismissed her upstart challenger as a "shrub."

Former President Clinton calls Bush's habit of little shits to be underestimated "this little shit." As family friend Doug Wead puts it, "If they think you're dumb, good!"

In contrast to Clinton, Bush doesn't read memos, display a thirst for detail or stay up late debating the subtleties of policy. He's more like Reagan, laying out steadfast principles and big goals and letting others work out the details.

"He doesn't talk things to death," said former aide and longtime friend Joe Allbaugh. Another friend and aide, Clay Johnson, said, "He's not a fretter."

Detractors see a glib arrogance unmatched by intellect or accomplishments: All hat, no cattle, in Texas terms.

Bush says what looks like swagger is simply the natural product of his West Texas boyhood. In contrast with his father's blue-blooded presidential style, the son will never be played by "the wimp factor."

"George Bush has by temperament and by strategy decided to be a much more aggressive president," Hargrove said.

Polls say half the public disapproves of his presidency, yet Bush plans "big things" for his final term.

And why not? In a first term won by the narrowest of margins, he snubbed the United Nations and European allies with his war in Iraq, muscled through Congress a bill that expanded the federal government's role in education, and won three major tax cuts.

He's grayer, a bit more wrinkled, a few pounds heavier, but the office hasn't aged Bush as it does some. Friends say he's changed remarkably little.

Known for his discipline, Bush is likely to keep his daily routine for four more years: reading about 60 pages of daily briefing material before turning in early, up around 5:30 a.m. to study the Bible, heading into the Oval Office in suit and tie around 7 a.m., daily exercise to stay fit.

Expect him to start meetings on time, or even early; offer sharp looks and tart words to any staffer foolish enough to arrive unprepared; lighten the tension with wit.

Friends say Bush relishes the job.

"Even in times that have been extremely difficult," said Texas buddy Charlie Younger, "he wakes up every morning happy that he's the president of the United States."

## Do you know the President?

WASHINGTON — A president, a husband, a father and a sports fan — those are the basic facts most Americans could tell you about George W. Bush. Here's a quiz to find out how much you know:

1. What is Bush's nickname?
2. What does the W. stand for?
3. What has Bush banned from the Oval Office?
4. What three states has Bush never visited during his time as president?
5. What state has Bush visited the most? Second most?
6. The president has hosted just four state dinners at the White House. What world leaders received this rare tribute?
7. What was Bush's favorite movie of 2004? Top flick in 2000?

### ANSWERS:

1. Bush's nickname is Bushie — the same nickname he has given his wife.
2. The W. stands for Walker.
3. The president has banned jeans in the Oval Office, but he often wears cowboy boots with his suits when meeting with foreign leaders.
4. Idaho, Vermont and Rhode Island.
5. Bush has visited Pennsylvania 44 times — all before he lost the state on Nov. 2.
6. Earning a state dinner have been the leaders of Mexico, Poland, the Philippines and Kenya.
7. His favorite movie was "Friday Night Lights," a look at Texas high school football.

## First lady may get more of second-term spotlight

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Look for first lady Laura Bush to get more of a second term.

After four years of focus on early childhood education — reading to youngsters, visiting schools and recruiting new teachers — she's now talking about working with substance-abusing juvenile delinquents as well.

There'll be the customary travel to Europe and other stops on her husband's itinerary, but she longs to set foot in places off the beaten path, such as Afghanistan — she is an advocate for women's rights there — and Iraq, where her husband went in 2003.

Those efforts could help make up for a first term that was overshadowed by outside events and defined at the outset by her political inhibitions.

Mrs. Bush won on Capitol Hill to make her debut before Congress testifying about early childhood learning when terrorists struck on Sept. 11, 2001. In February 2003, she canceled a literary symposium after learning some poets planned to use the White House event to protest the coming war in Iraq.

In last year's campaign, President Bush often told audiences he should be re-elected "so Laura Bush will be the first lady for four more years."

Wish granted, Mrs. Bush can be expected to step out more in the second term, especially as the president tackles some contentious domestic issues, said historian Robert Watson.

"She's a reassuring presence next to him," said Watson, a specialist on first ladies who teaches at Florida Atlantic University. "She reinforces that image that he's trying to project."



First lady Laura Bush arrives on stage for a Presidential Inaugural Ball at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington in 2001. She may play a larger role in her husband's second term.

Though politics may have required it, she campaigned extensively on her own and was a popular draw, even more than her husband.

In speeches around the country, Mrs. Bush defended the president from criticism over his education law, response to the terrorist attacks and pursuit of war in Iraq. She even stepped into the torch debate over federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research.

Her address at the Republican convention marked a rare foray into foreign and domestic policy by a first lady. More than half the speech dealt with the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

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# Christmas cards deliver holiday healing

## Sick boy's wish comes true 130,000 times

BY CHARLES ODUM  
The Associated Press

CANTON, Ga. — Christmas is still going strong for 14-year-old Nick Waters.

When the boy's church asked what he wanted for Christmas, Nick, who cannot talk and was born with no arms, slowly typed his reply with his feet: Lots of Christmas cards. Ten thousand of them.

More than two weeks after Christmas, he has more than 130,000 cards — and they are still coming. They line the halls at his home, along with the living room, and the kitchen, and every other room in the house.

"To see him the month of December, it was like a different child. His color looks good. It was the best Christmas ever," said Nick's mother, Penny Waters.

Nick has Holt-Oram Syndrome, a rare, inherited disorder that causes heart abnormalities and birth defects of the hands and arms.

This was the first Christmas in several years that Nick did not spend in a hospital, and no one in his family wants the season to end.

Friends and church members help handle all the mail. Each day they form a circle in the living room with Nick in the middle, taking delight as envelopes are opened and each card is read.

Unopened cards are stacked waist-high in postal bins in the dining room, a closet and the garage.

As the cards poured in, Nick's family — including father, Charles, and sisters Tabitha, 19, and Kasey, 13 — filled in a map, marking each state where a card had been mailed from. South Dakota and Alaska were the last postmarks to pass through the door.

Cards also have come from Ethiopia, Israel, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Ireland, Australia and Canada.

Nick also received a package from the Secret Service, with photos of President Bush, Air Force One and White House pets Barney and Willie. He has cards from the Wake Forest basketball team, the NBA's Orlando Magic, the University of Georgia, Miss Utah and Elvis, who confided to Nick he is still alive and in hiding.

"He's probably touched more lives in a month than we'll touch in a lifetime," said Darrell Cheek, a Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church in Woodstock who helped organized the effort along with members of Faith Baptist in nearby Ball Ground.

Church groups spread word of Nick's request through the Internet.

"He could have asked for anything," his mother said. "He could have asked for a



Surrounded by walls covered with cards, 14-year-old Nick Waters, left, listens as his sister Tabitha reads a Christmas card to him at their home in Canton, Ga., last week. Nick's other sister, Kasey, center, looks on.

swimming pool. He just wanted cards and mail."

Those close to Nick say the cards helped ease his pain. Nick has spent other recent Christmas seasons in the hospital, fighting infections and complications following spinal surgery in 2000.

"This is probably the happiest I've seen him in four years," said Debbie Brinneman, a specialist who has worked with Nick for seven years.

You can find out how to get in touch with Nick on the Web at [nickwaters.home.mindspring.com](http://nickwaters.home.mindspring.com)



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## Study: Drowsy doctors as dangerous as drunks

BY LINDA A. JOHNSON  
The Associated Press

They're in training to save lives, but medical interns sometimes threaten them: Lack of sleep from very long hospital shifts can make young doctors behind the wheel as dangerous as drunks, researchers found.

Doctors in training were more than twice as likely to get in a car crash while driving home after working 24 hours or longer, compared with when they worked shorter shifts, according to a study by Harvard Medical School researchers.

The study also found that after extended shifts, young doctors were about six times more likely to report a near-miss accident and that they sometimes fell asleep while driving.

"A lot of the lay public doesn't realize that twice a week most young doctors in this country are forced by hospitals to work these marathon shifts of 30 hours in a row," said senior researcher Dr. Charles A. Zeisler, professor of sleep medicine at Harvard Medical School and head of sleep medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

"If they're going to require these trainees to work such long hours, they should at least provide them with transportation home."

The study, reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, was done by some of the same Harvard Medical School researchers who just last fall reported that sleep-deprived doctors made one-third more

medical errors during their many long shifts, compared with younger ones.

The new study included monthly surveys the researchers collected from 2,737 first-year interns in hospitals around the country from April 2002 through May 2003. More than two-thirds of the drowsy doctors drove home from work.


The data, including police accident reports, showed that each extended work shift per month increased chances of a car crash by 16 percent while commuting home and raised the risk of any crash by 9 percent.

The researchers found the doctors worked on-call shifts averaging 32 hours in which they were lucky to grab a few hours' sleep, and about half worked from 81 to 140 hours per week.

An accompanying editorial by traffic safety consultant C. Dennis Wylie of Santa Barbara, Calif., noted the increased accident risk for interns after an extended work shift roughly corresponds to the impairment of a driver with a blood alcohol level of 0.06 to 0.09 percent. The legal limit is 0.08 for drivers in most states.

In July 2003, just after this study concluded, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education set standards limiting interns' duty hours.

They now are limited to 80 hours per week and no more than three on-call shifts a week, both averaged over four weeks. Interns can work up to 24 straight hours, plus up to six additional hours for educational activities, and must get one day off per week on average.



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## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Open eyes on morning after  
The Spokesman-Review,  
Olympia, Wash.

In May, the Food and Drug Administration rejected an application by a drug company to sell an emergency contraceptive without a prescription. Against the advice of its own scientists, according to FDA Director Steven Galson said Barr Pharmaceuticals had not sufficiently supported its contention that women under the age of 16 could safely use the product, called Plan B. He also stated that Barr's application to limit over-the-counter sales to customers 16 years and older was inadequate.

Barr has reworded and resubmitted its application and expects to hear from the FDA this month. In the meantime, the most comprehensive study on the topic was reported recently in the Journal of the American Medical Association and it debunks the fear that ready access to emergency contraceptives, often called morning-after pills, increases the likelihood that young women will engage in risky sex.

But, of course, politics is the holdup. A conservative administration does not want to be seen as promoting promiscuity, even if that claim has been refuted.

Pundits' production is paltry  
The Hawk Eye, Burlington, Iowa

The Federal Communication Commission's recent record fine in the Janet Jackson case suggests that a bare breast shown on television has become a negative effect on the national psyche than the screaming matches that pass for political discourse on alleged news programs.

And yet it's not the breast incident so much as the political pundits' constant shouting and screaming that has helped fuel a growing incivility in politics and society. The pundit's elevated status as a strategy that bordered on lunacy to the so-called news talk shows. The networks, especially Fox, profit from the audience appeal of screaming-head hosts such as Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity, who happen to be wildly conservative and do their best to berate and silence their guests.

But there was an encouraging sign [this month] that the formulaic berating format may be on notice. At least at CNN, where new boss Jonathan Klein fired conservative pundit Tucker Carlson and put his "Crossfire" program on hiatus.

Hopefully CNN, as it reinvents its political programming, will lead the way to a new (old) kind of civil debate that informs viewers instead of assailing their ears and insulting their intelligence.

Pressed to preserve credibility  
Florida Today, Melbourne

In an action that showed no respect for an independent press or the American people, the Department of Justice last year handed over \$240,000 of taxpayer money to conservative pundit Armstrong Williams.

He was paid to tout the Bush administration. No Child Left Behind was in his newspaper columns and media appearances — all while pretending the propaganda was really independent and objective commentary. The purely partisan nature of the Williams deal was uncovered by USA Today. Williams was rightly dumped from his syndicate, Tribune Media Services.

Florida right now, which Monday fired four executives for relying on possibly forged documents in a "60 Minutes Wednesday" story about President Bush's National Guard service.

The Williams and CBS cases show the need for news organizations to maintain the



highest ethical standards, and hold journalists accountable when they violate the rules. The credibility of the Florida Estate is at stake, and with it the public trust the news media must have to do its job.

Hill ethics policy out of order  
Journal Star, Peoria, Ill.

At first House Republicans seemed so magnanimous, retreating from an earlier ethics rules change that would have allowed one of their congressional leaders to keep his leadership position while under indictment on criminal charges. Even GOP leader Tom DeLay, whom that rules change was designed to protect, championed the turnaround. There were congratulations all around for their sense of fair play. And what did House Republicans do then? Why, they ramrodded through another rules change that effectively neutered the ethics committee that rebuked Mr. DeLay three times last year, making it all but impossible for ethics complaints to move forward.

Now a majority vote of that committee will be needed to start an ethics investigation. Thing is, the committee's membership is now made up of members from both parties. The votes, which seem more likely than in this partisan era, mean the ethics complaints die.

The 109th Congress will be a reform Congress, "House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois promised. If so, it's off to a poor start.

Mandela's grief can help fight  
Amarillo (Texas) Globe-News

One might think that in the 21st century, society would be able to talk openly about anything. Not true.

Yet the acknowledgment this month from [former South African President Nelson] Mandela that his [son died of AIDS complications] might open the door to a new age of candor about an affliction that has infected more than 25 million people in Africa alone.

The lack of disclosure about AIDS in Africa and Asia comes from the shame many people still associate with the disease. Yes, it is caused by risky behavior — such as unsafe sex and drug use.

However, the disease has gone far beyond any behavior that societies still stigmatize. Children are being born with the disease. Women are getting infected by their husbands, who have sex with other individuals carrying the virus that causes the disease.

The more candor the world gets from lead-

ers such as Nelson Mandela about AIDS, the better the chances of battling a disease that threatens to wipe out an entire generation in Africa and much of Asia.

Please, no more silence.

Democrats unfair to Gonzales  
The Daily Sentinel,  
Grand Junction, Colo.

Colorado Sen. Ken Salazar, in his first week on the job, was at the forefront of a fine national political hoofa. And rather than side with his own Democratic Party, Salazar apparently is agreeing with GOP President Bush.

Debate about appropriate techniques of interrogating terror suspects and treating other sorts of prisoners is certainly warranted. But Democrats are going to have a hard time gathering in a reliably safe and friendly em-dash Mengele when he has repeatedly opposed the use of physical torture.

If congressional Democrats choose to expose a greater sense of outrage toward Gonzales than they do toward people who enjoy participating in videotaped beheadings, let them. That's a political judgment they are free to make and one that will ensure them many more years in the political wilderness.

Libraries: No-limit learning  
Chicago Tribune

Picture a city without a public library, where books can't be borrowed, where kids can't gather in a reliably safe and friendly place after school, and where computers are only available to those who can afford them.

Salinas, Calif., which spawned Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck, soon may be such a place, a city of 150,000 without a precious resource of knowledge or symbol of community.

Salinas City Council, strapped for cash, voted Dec. 14 to shut its library system. The system — budgeted at \$3 million annually — circulates 4 million items a year and serves 1,900 people daily.

So what will be lost in Salinas, and perhaps elsewhere, if such a trend starts in Cali-

fornia and crosses the nation? Libraries are more than repositories of books, magazines, newspapers, computers and videos. They're places for children to learn a love of reading, for students to find a quiet space to study and for seniors to settle in a chair with a good novel or a well-thumbed daily paper.

They're open to all, equal access for public services. An inquisitive mind and a thirst for knowledge are the only keys for entry. Libraries are worth saving, in Salinas and throughout America.

Chertoff smartly homeland pick  
Los Angeles Times

Utterly humiliated by his first pick to run the Department of Homeland Security, President Bush has fallen back on a solid second choice, Michael Chertoff, a federal appeals court judge and the former head of the Justice Department's criminal division.

It's not an uncommon pattern in Washington. An ill-advised nomination derailed by scandal tends to focus the mind and lead to smart personnel choices.

Chertoff is known for his keen intellect, probity and the kind of tenacity that led the Justice Department to literally kill off the Arthur Andersen accounting firm in response to the Enron scandal. Chertoff is unlikely to have much patience for bureaucratic ingighting or excuses that get in the way of strengthening the new federal department.

Chertoff is a loyal Republican but no ideologue. He was chief counsel on the Senate Whitewater committee. Though he never overstepped his bounds in that role, he should regret his involvement in what turned out to be a groundless vendetta. He was ahead of the curve on the terrorist threat, arguing in 1996 that law enforcement officials needed more power to track down terrorists. His suggestions raised some hackles among civil libertarians, and he later gave them concrete reason to complain. As head of the criminal division of the Justice Department, Chertoff was one of the architects of the Patriot Act.

To his credit, Chertoff battled at the time against extremists in the Pentagon and the White House who wanted to rely on military tribunals to try suspected terrorists. ... At his confirmation hearing, Chertoff should be asked to clarify his current thinking on the proper balancing of freedom and security. Then again, [when it comes to getting this unwieldy bureaucracy working effectively to protect the country, a tough prosecutor with a brilliant mind may be just what we need.

## Whoa 'Nellie'

**NE** LINCOLN — Sen. Ben Nelson finally has succeeded in getting President Bush to stop calling him by the detested nickname "Nellie."

Bush had been referring to the Nebraska Democrat as "Nellie" since 2001. Nelson disliked the nickname and had asked the president to stop using it.

The president likes to give people nicknames. He had called Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, "Pootie-Poot," while aide Karen Hughes gets "High Prophet."

But Bush heeded Nelson's request to scrap his moniker, and at the recent White House Christmas party, the president referred to Nelson as "Benny."

"The president had a twinkle in his eye when he called me that," Nelson said.

## Anti-theft handcuffs

**AZ** PHOENIX — Some Phoenix-area inmates are in the pink — pink handcuffs.

Maricopa County sheriff's deputies began using fluorescent pink handcuffs Thursday to transport inmates.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio said he introduced the pink handcuffs because he was tired of losing them to his own deputies and other law enforcement agencies. He ordered 100 of the pink handcuffs, which he made in England, at \$19.44 each. The regular ones cost \$18.84 a pop.

"We presume nobody else has pink handcuffs, so we can spot them and know they're ours," he said. Patrol deputies will still carry the silver cuffs, which they pay for themselves.

## Low-scoring affair

**VT** MILTON — It's hard to imagine that a three-point-er in the second quarter of a high school boy's basketball game would turn out to be the winning basket — unless it's one of only three made in the entire game.

That basket, along with an earlier field goal, all by Bellevue Free Academy-Fairfax needed to beat Milton on Wednesday night. The final score: 5-2.

"I've never had a player hit a game-winner in the second quarter before," BFA-Fairfax coach Glen Button Jr. said.

Neither team scored in the second half.

Smith said the slowdown was implemented because BFA (7-4) has a strong scoring presence, while Milton (2-8) does not. The Milton players believed their best chance to be competitive was to just hold onto the ball.

## Man busted with ricin

**FL** OCALA — A man was arrested after authorities allegedly found the deadly toxin ricin stashed in a cardboard box at his home along with a small cache of weapons, officials said Thursday.

Steven Michael Ekberg, 22, faces up to 10 years if convicted of possession of a biological agent. FBI agents said they didn't believe Ekberg, arrested Wednesday, had any connection with terrorist groups.

There was no explanation for how or why he obtained the ricin. The sheriff's office was tipped

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

off last week by an informant who alleged Ekberg had been carrying concealed weapons into clubs — and boasted of having ricin in one of several vials and glass tubes he allegedly showed off.

## Top of the list

**MA** BOSTON — If you're on the A-list at Suffolk Superior Court this month, then most likely you're also in the jury pool.

A computer glitch at the state Office of Jury Commissioner alphabetized names of potential jurors, rather than shuffling them, before summonses were sent out. That created a jury pool of people whose last names mostly begin with the letter A.

So far, prosecutors, defense lawyers and judges agree that the error has not affected defendants' constitutional right to a fair trial in front of a jury of their peers, jury Commissioner Pamela J. Wood said.

## Pole call

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — The principal of a Palo Alto middle school may not invite a popular speaker back to an annual career day after he told girls they could earn a good living as strippers.

Management consultant William Fried told eighth-graders at Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School on Tuesday that stripping and exotic dancing can pay \$250,000 or more per year, depending on their bust size.

"It's sick, but it's true," Fried said in an interview later. "The



## Renegade umbrella

Charles Lindsey of Columbus, Ohio, tries to head to a bus stop through an afternoon storm.

truth of the matter is you can earn a tremendous amount of money as an exotic dancer, if that's your desire."

Fried has given a popular 55-minute presentation, "The Secret of a Happy Life," at the school's career day the past three years. But school principal Joseph Di Salvo said Fried may not be back next year.

The principal said Fried's comments to the class came after some of them asked him to expand on why he included "exotic dancing" on his list of 140 potential careers.

According to Jason Garcia, 14, Fried told students: "For every two inches up there, you should get another \$50,000 on your salary."

## Road over burial ground

**TX** CORPUS CHRISTI — Construction on an area road has been delayed partly because of its location on an ancient American Indian burial site, state transportation officials said.

"There was the potential for Indian artifacts all through this," Texas Department of Transportation district engineer Craig E. Clark said Thursday while speaking to the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi.

"They probably are ancestral to the Karankawas," Kennmoss said.

Archaeologists will likely do carbon testing to date the artifacts once construction is finished. The burial site probably dates from 2500 B.C. to 1000 A.D., said Robert Drollet, an archaeologist at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History.

## World travelers

**DC** WASHINGTON — Gray-headed albatrosses, famed for flocking to the South Georgia Islands near Antarctica to mate and raise chicks, routinely circle the globe between breeding seasons in a restless search for fish, British scientists discovered.

For a study appearing this week in the journal *Science*, researchers for the British Antarctic Survey attached electronic locators to the legs of 23 birds.

The researchers found that more than half of the birds flew completely around the world, following the chilled oceans below 30 degrees latitude south. One bird circled the globe three times in 18 months, and another flew more than 13,000 miles in just 46 days.

## Coyote killers

**ME** EAST MACHIAS — A competition to see who can kill the most coyotes was scheduled to go on at noon Friday in eastern Maine, despite protests from a humane group and request by the Baldacci administration not to go ahead.

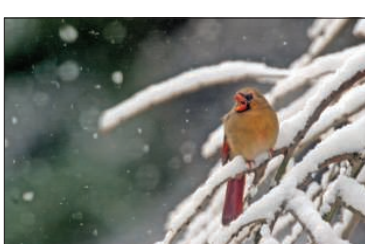
A dozen to 15 participants, some from other states, were expected to participate in the event, Maine's first, said Mike Look, an organizer of the derby and member of the Washington County Fish and Wildlife Conservation Club.

Look said he sees little difference between Friday's event and normal hunting of coyotes, which are viewed as a major cause of a deer population decline down east. But opponents say the event does nothing to manage the coyote population and reopens old wounds from a recent bear-hunting referendum.



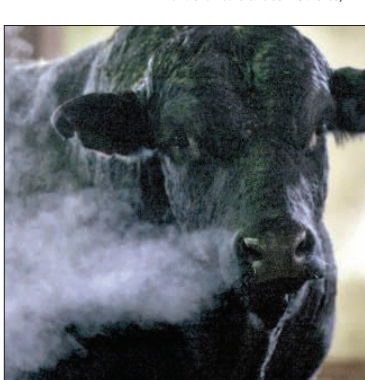
## Working in the shadows

Tom Thompson lays backing for caulk, in Hays, Kan., during the construction of a new Home Depot store.



## In the lunch line

A cardinal waits its turn at a birdfeeder on a snow-covered tree in Clarence, N.Y.



## Warming up

A rodeo bull sends up a cloud of steam as he waits for the start of the 25th annual Montana PRCA Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals in Great Falls, Mont.



## Bitter cold

At negative 29 degrees fahrenheit, the rising sun colors steam and smoke from buildings in Great Falls, Mont.



## Breathing easy

Swimmers, from top to bottom, Robert Norman, Melanie Roberts and Will Dove, outfitted in their snorkels and swim caps, await instructions from Raleigh, N.C., Swimming Association coach Dan Flack during practice at the Pullen Park Pool.



## Better than out

As snow falls outside, a cat naps on a windowsill inside a home in Great Falls, Mont.

## Pilot grounded

**NV** LAS VEGAS — An armed AirTran Airways pilot was charged with operating an aircraft under the influence after a federal screener at McCarran International Airport smelled alcohol, authorities said Thursday.

Las Vegas police arrested Oliver Paul Reason Jr., 37, in the cockpit of the AirTran plane shortly after he passed through an airport checkpoint Wednesday night, according to the Transportation Security Administration, police and the airline.

Orlando-based AirTran Holdings Inc. issued a statement Thursday saying the airline followed its safety procedures to ensure the Atlanta-bound aircraft was held at the gate.

The pilot has been suspended from his duties as a federal flight deck officer, which had allowed him to carry the firearm, the TSA said.

## Healthy vending?

**DC** WASHINGTON — The vending machine trade association is launching an anti-obesity campaign to encourage healthy food choices, hoping to fend off efforts to remove machines from schools and improve the industry's image as concerns grow about the fattening of America.

The program, "Balanced for Life," is being unveiled Thursday at an event featuring pro football Hall of Famer Lynn Swann.

The effort by the National Automatic Merchandising Association includes a color-coded rating system for food sold in vending machines, indicating healthful choices and those that should be eaten in moderation.

## Triple trouble

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — Roda Aden gave birth to twin boys Wednesday at Abbott Northwestern Hospital.

Nothing unusual about that. About 31 of every 1,000 live births are twins, according to recent U.S. birth statistics.

But Aden also gave birth to twin girls at the hospital in May 2002 and to twin boys in November 2000.

Having two consecutive sets of twins is highly unusual, said Dr. Steve Dahlin, but three is extremely rare.

None of the twins is identical. Dahlin delivered two of the couple's three sets of twins. What's especially unusual, she said, is that Aden became pregnant with all the children without taking fertility drugs. For women in the United States not involved in fertility treatments, she said, only about eight births in 1,000 are twins.

## Medical pot at work suit

**OR** SALEM — The Oregon Court of Appeals has reinstated a lawsuit filed by a man who alleged that his employer failed to accommodate his use of medical marijuana.

Robert Washburn's employer, Portland-based Columbia Forest Products, fired him from its Klamath Falls mill after urine tests detected marijuana residue. Washburn suffers from neck pain and muscle spasms that disrupt his sleep. He obtained a state-issued medical marijuana registration card 1999.

A Multnomah County Circuit Court judge had tossed out Washburn's lawsuit, ruling that the state Medical Marijuana Act doesn't require a company to make accommodations for workers with marijuana in their system.

## School OKs headscarves

**TN** CHATTANOOGA — A public high school changed its dress code to allow religious headscarves after a national civil rights group for Muslims complained to the principal on behalf of a student.

A spokeswoman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations said Emily Smith, 18, a senior at Chattanooga's East Ridge High School, wore her headscarf, or hijab, on campus for the first time Thursday.

Khadja Athman, civil rights manager for the Washington, D.C.-based council, said the group sent the school principal a letter Jan. 6, three days after the student e-mailed the council asking about her rights.

Rich Smith, an assistant superintendent for Hamilton County schools, said the school had banned all head wear, but the principal agreed to allow Emily Smith's hijab after attorneys were consulted.

## Shootings investigated

**TX** DALLAS — The bodies of four men — all hit with multiple gunshot wounds — were discovered at an apartment complex Thursday night. Police called the carnage "a disturbance that got out of hand."

Police found the body of one victim in the breezeway of the complex; three others were found in a second-floor apartment. All had been shot multiple times, police said.

Investigators were looking into whether the men became involved in a gunfight, and if drugs were involved.

## Animal cruelty charge

**HI** HONOLULU — An East Oahu woman has been charged with 25 counts of animal cruelty about a year and a half after authorities seized dozens of dogs and cats from her Hawaii Kai townhouse.

Lucy Kagan is scheduled to appear in court on the charges Jan. 28.

The Hawaiian Humane Society in May 2003 opened an animal cruelty case against Kagan after officials discovered 27 dogs and two cats living in what they called squalid conditions at her home.

## Bald eagle dies

**VT** MONTPELIER — One of the eight young eagles raised in Addison this summer to establish a breeding population of bald eagles in Vermont has died.

The young eagle died Dec. 26 after it was discovered struggling for life in the woods near Moore Reservoir in Waterford in the Connecticut River Valley.

A couple found the floundering bird while walking their dog along a logging road Christmas Day.

Evelyn Cecchini of the Outreach for Earth Stewardship, one of the groups working in the eagle restoration effort, said an examination of the dead bird turned up no obvious cause of death.

Stories and photos from wire services



## AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2005

[illegible]

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These actors — Leonardo DiCaprio, Jamie Foxx, Liam Neeson, Jim Carrey and Kevin Spacey — are front-runners for Academy Award nominations for the best male lead of 2004.

**Q** The Oscar nominations come out Jan. 25. How do you see the race shaping up for Best Actor? — D. Watts, Barnstable, Mass.

**A** Our Top 5 includes Jamie Foxx as Ray Charles in "Ray," Liam Neeson as Alfred Kinsey in "Kinsey," Leonardo DiCaprio as Howard Hughes in "The Aviator," Kevin Spacey as Bobby Darin in "Beyond the Sea" and Jim Carrey (the only one who played a fictional character) in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

**Q** Every Hollywood actor seems to have a personal trainer. Who's the hottest trainer of them all? — Bea Bell, Raleigh, N.C.

**A** Right now, it's Gunnar Peterson, 42. His client list includes Lucy Liu, Ben Affleck, J.Lo, Sly Stallone, Kim Basinger, Penelope Cruz and Angelina Jolie. "Even celebrities have to bang it out every day to stay in great shape," Peterson tells us. He shares his fitness philosophy — which includes limiting carbs to early in the day and sipping fitness water for sodas and fruit juice — in "G-Force," new from ReganBooks.

**Q** Is it true that Gloria Estefan plans to star in a biopic about singer Connie Francis? — John S., Chicago

**A** Yes. In fact, Estefan, 47, and Francis, 66, are collaborating on the screenplay. "We start at age 3," Francis told us from her Florida home. "And we don't whitewash my troubles, including four bad marriages, a rape, the murder of my brother, a decade of manic depression, institutionalization, a suicide attempt and shock treatments." Now stabilized with medication, Francis often gives concerts and performs her signature song, "Who's Sorry Now?"



Gloria Estefan is busy cooking up a screenplay about troubled singer Connie Francis.

KRT



ABC

Jesse Metcalfe plays the hunky help that one desperate housewife can't keep her hands off of.

**Q** What's the skinny on the actor who plays Eva Longoria's boy toy on "Desperate Housewives"? — K. Couch, Atlanta

**A** Jesse Metcalfe, who plays John, the 17-year-old garden-er bedding his married employer, is actually 26 — well past the age of consent. The former NYU film student honed his seduction skills on the soap "Passions." Off-camera, he enjoys the perks of his hit show: a house in the Hollywood Hills, a classic 1967 Camaro and his own band, Raw Power Moves.

**Q** How has Donna Hanover handled her divorce from "America's Mayor," Rudy Giuliani? — Jane Richards, Camden, N.J.

**A** "My life is joyful," says Hanover, 54, who has a recurring role on "Law & Order" and hosts the syndicated show "Famous Homes & Hideaways." "I married Ed Oster, my high school sweetheart, in 2003. And our love story inspired me to write a book, 'My Boyfriend's Back.' " It's due this week from Penguin publishing.

**Q** I see that new mom Gwyneth Paltrow isn't making movies for the time being. Is there another young actress who handles classical parts as well as Gwyneth? — Anne Carson, Reno, Nev.

**A** Yes. Lynn Collins, 25, now earning raves as Portia in "The Merchant of Venice" with Al Pacino. The Texas native credits her success to a love of literature and her spiritual practice. "I use visualizations to help me create a positive life," she tells us. Next: a biopic about Charlotte Brontë.

**Q** We haven't heard much from Ruben Studdard. What's he up to? — Donna Meier, Winton, Minn.

**A** "I did four videos and an inspirational album, 'I Need an Angel,'" Ruben, 26, told us. "I ain't broke no more." But the "American Idol" champ will need more than an angel if he doesn't shed some of his 400-plus pounds. He was hospitalized in November for exhaustion and had to cancel several shows.

**Q** Your item on Marni Nixon singing for Natalie Wood as Maria in "West Side Story" made me wonder: Who sang for Richard Beymer as Tony? — Rudy Koch, East Windsor, N.J.

**A** Jimmy Bryant did the singing as Tony, Maria's Astar-crossed lover, in that 1961 classic. "It was tricky," recalls Bryant, 75. "I had to sing better than Richard [now 66] but still sound like a street kid."

**Q** Where is my favorite Broadway star, Michael Crawford? — Stephen Barnes, Colorado Springs, Colo.

**A** He's starring in the London production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest musical, "The Woman in White." Crawford (who turns 63 this week) last appeared on London's West End 18 years ago in another Lloyd Webber production: "The Phantom of the Opera," which made his reputation as a musical star.



## YOUR MONEY



LATWP

When she had a cold recently, San Diego public relations manager Christine Benton called in sick to set an example for her co-workers. She says the lesson seems to be working.

# Sick day is healthy choice

## From vaccine shortage evolves anti-heroism work ethic

BY MELISSA HEALY  
Los Angeles Times

When a miserable cold struck Kim Colabella in early December, duly called. Her supervisor and several colleagues were out of the office, and Colabella determined that, ailing or not, she needed to keep things going. So she took a cold pill, packed up her tissues and soldiered on to work.

But when Colabella arrived at Corporate Wellness Inc., a Mount Kisco, N.Y., company that coordinates employee health services for other companies, her sniffling, red-eyed arrival won her a decidedly chilly reception. A co-worker followed her around with a box of disinfectant wipes, swabbing down any surface she touched. Fellow employees reared back in horror when she came near and finally banished her to her cubicle. The stricken office worker dared not emerge, even for lunch, and used the fax and copy machines only when she had accumulated enough paperwork to make a single trip.

In another year, Colabella's devotion to her employer would have been lauded. This time, she was as welcome at work as Typhoid Mary.

And her transformation from would-be hero to workplace pariah has a simple explanation: the recent shortage of flu vaccine. Most healthy adults — more than 95 percent, by the federal government's latest reckoning — are entering the flu season unvaccinated. The shortage and subsequent rationing have eased in some states, in California, for example, health officials have ended all age restrictions for the vaccine. At this point, however, most of the nation's healthy workers probably will remain unvaccinated through the season.

As a result, "presenteeism" — the practice of showing up to work sick — is now on the agenda of human-resources departments throughout the United States.

Whether it's a flu, cold or stomach virus going around, companies and their employees are realizing that it takes just one employee coming to work sick to spark a workplace outbreak and set off waves of absenteeism down the line.

"All of a sudden, people are talking about it," says Ron Getzel, a Cornell University/Mediant economist who studies the phenomenon of working while ill. "It wasn't in people's vocabulary a year ago."

Now, he says, "employers are realizing there are real costs to it."

This year especially, says workplace analyst Lori Rosen, "the idea of the 'hero-worker' that manages to punch in for a full day's work despite illness needs to be discouraged." Contagious workers jeopardize the health and productivity of all employees, she says. So their bosses need to emphasize that while they need their employees at work, "they first want a healthy workplace," says Rosen, of CCH Associates, a human-resources consulting firm.

As cold and flu season begins to take hold, companies across the country are issuing memos and posting signs in workplace restrooms, urging workers to wash their hands frequently, cover their coughs and sneezes, get enough rest and eat nutritious foods. Usually appearing at the bottom of this stay-well litany is an admonishment that few bosses have ever issued before, and many — even now — issue through gritted teeth: If you're sick, stay home, employees are being told.

And don't come back until you're better.

Make no mistake about it, however: This workplace edict comes not out of a sudden Ebenezer Scrooge-like conversion of bosses everywhere.

They're scared: not of the flu itself — with its high fever and aching muscles — but of an unvaccinated workforce decimated by it, causing missed deadlines, blown production runs and shoddy work.

Garden-variety viruses are bad enough, but the flu packs a punch that can last a week or more.

This past fall, 60 percent of the large employers polled by the Society for Human Resources Management said they were planning to offer flu shots or sponsor flu vaccine clinics for their employees this year. During last year's flu season, widespread efforts helped push flu inoculation levels among healthy Americans to historic levels — nearly 1 in 4 healthy adults younger than 65 got the shot.

But this year, virtually all such plans were scrubbed after government regulators condemned roughly half the nation's projected supply of flu vaccine because of contamination at Chiron Corp.'s British manufacturing plant. While 27 million doses were quickly set aside for babies, the elderly and those with chronic medical conditions, healthy workers have faced the flu season armed with little more than hand sanitizer and a heightened wariness.

SEE SICK ON PAGE 27

# New Year's chores for homeowners

BY HOLDEN LEWIS  
bankrate.com

Tune up your mortgage. Check to see if your taxes and insurance are being paid correctly. Get a carbon monoxide detector.

These are some of the mortgage- and housing-related New Year's resolutions offered by experts. You don't have to tackle them all now, but as a homeowner, you would benefit by doing most or all of these things at some point in 2005.

■ Give yourself a mortgage tuneup.

This resolution, offered by David Hall, senior vice president of Quicken Loans, sounds simpler than it is. The central idea is this, Hall says: "You can't put your mortgage in a drawer and be done with it."

Instead, he says, you have to view your mortgage as part of your overall financial plan, matching changing needs with changing goals.

Among the most critical of these changing needs: the time you plan to live in the house.

Hall thinks too many homeowners get 30-year fixed loans and waste money. Instead, they should get three- or five-year hybrid ARMs, which start out with a low rate that lasts three or five years, then adjusts annually after that.

"Most folks tend to live in their home a little shorter than they might anticipate," Hall says. "When you take a 30-year, you're taking a risk. You're paying more for your risk is that if you move in three or four years, you've lost a lot of money."

■ Review your credit report.

"I think most Americans don't know their credit score," Hall says, and he thinks that should change. Check your credit reports for inaccuracies, too.

Confirm whether the mortgage servicing company is paying the insurance and taxes correctly.

If you have a mortgage, a servicing company is supposed to make sure the taxes and insurance are paid on time. Sometimes the company goes off. Call the insurance company and the county tax collector once or twice a year to make sure the mortgage servicing company is doing its job correctly.

■ Find out whether you should move credit card debt to your home's equity.

Home equity debt generally is tax-deductible, with rates often as far below those on credit cards. You can save a lot of money by paying off your credit card debt with a home equity loan or equity line of credit.

The surest road to debt is to consolidate your credit card debts into a home equity loan, then charge up the cards to the max again. If you do that, charge some nice clothes on your credit cards so you'll look presentable in bankruptcy court.

■ Make sure your homeowners insurance is sufficient.

"You should periodically contact your insurer to make sure you're covered for home improvements or increases in value and to make sure you're properly covered for any type of risk," says Gary Bierfreund, corporate president of MortgageIT.

■ Draw up a will if you don't have one, and make sure it's up to date.

This resolution is suggested by Neil Garfinkel, a lawyer with Abrams Garfinkel Margolis Bergson in New York. "You're never too young to have a will," Garfinkel says. Owning a home makes a will even more important.

■ Check smoke detectors and buy a carbon monoxide detector.

This is another resolution suggested by Garfinkel. Test smoke detectors at least twice a year; January is as good a time as any. A carbon monoxide detector could save your life, especially if you have a furnace that burns oil or gas. Garfinkel suggests getting your chimney swept, too.

## YOUR MONEY

## Help family, but don't forget self

Q: I'm in my 20s and make a good salary, but I still live in my parents' house — actually, in their basement.

In my culture it's considered the child's duty to help support the parents, but I'm the only one of several children with a good job. So I help my parents pay their mortgage, and I also give my mother spending money each month.

I'm pretty sure that my mother gives me the money to take care of my older brothers, who wants to be a comedian and who refuses to get a job to support himself. I think she's tried not to give him money, but he has a terrible temper and she's afraid of making him angry.

I want to do the right thing, but I'm getting tired of supporting everyone and not getting on with my own life. Do you see a way out?

A: Of course, and so do you. You just haven't been willing to take the first step.

It's important to honor your culture, but it's unlikely your culture includes an ancient tradition of supporting throwaway-throwing wannabe comedians. If your mom is passing along your largess, then you're giving too much and indirectly aiding your brother's refusal to grow up.

Figure out how much money you need to get your own place, build up a decent emergency fund and begin saving for retirement. Your parents may have convinced you that supporting them in their old age is your duty, but you shouldn't count on being able to convince your own kids of the same thing. Your parents' spend can come out of what's left.

If that's not enough to pay for the lifestyle to which they've become accustomed, they may need to take the opportunity to downsize — perhaps into a house that's too small to house Brother Freehold. If your mother has reason to fear your brother's reaction, a call to the local domestic violence hotline can offer resources for dealing with the situation.

It also assumes your parents aren't elderly, disabled or otherwise dependent on you to stay above the poverty line. If cutting back would throw them into an economic tailspin, you may need to remain at home awhile longer as you transition them to a more realistic standard of living.

You may well face a barrage of parental and familial criticism for daring to put limits on your duty. But if you're convinced that you have a right to a life of your own — one that allows you to help your parents without being drained by their demands — then you'll be able to survive. Interestingly enough, so will they. Good luck.

**Q: My stepson is a victim of identity theft. Are there any government agencies or other organizations that he might contact to help?**

A: The only good thing about the identity theft epidemic — the Federal Trade Commission estimates 9.9 million victims in 2003 alone — is that plenty of resources have sprung up to help the victims.

Your stepson still has a lot of work ahead of him. He can turn to others for education and information, but he's the one who will need to contact the credit bureaus, file a police report and take the other steps necessary to clear his name.

He can't expect anyone else to do the work for him, and he'll be lucky if any official investigation is conducted. Most police departments place a pretty low priority on identity crimes, and research firm Gartner has estimated that the thieves face only a 1-in-700 chance of being caught.

But your stepson can limit the damage. He can get information from the FTC by visiting its consumer Web site at [www.consumer.gov/idtheft/](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/) or by calling (877) FTC-HELP. He also can check out the Identity Theft Resource Center, a nonprofit organization that recently won a National Crime Victim Service Award from the Department of Justice, at <http://www.idtheftcenter.org> or call (888) 693-7935.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Mail can be submitted online at [money.fortune.com](http://money.fortune.com), No. 28 Studio City, CA 91604, or via her website, [liz.weston.com](http://liz.weston.com). She regrets that she cannot respond personally to queries.

## FRIDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

| INDEXES   |              |             |                          |           |         |       |           |              |             |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
|           | 52-week High | 52-week Low | Name                     | Last      | Net Chg | % Chg | YTD % Chg | 52-week High | 52-week Low |
| 10,883.7  | 9,708.40     | -           | Dow Jones Industrials    | 10,558.00 | +53.7   | +0.5  | -2.9      | -            | -           |
| 3,823.28  | 2,743.46     | -           | Dow Jones Transportation | 3,569.16  | +35.59  | +1.01 | -6.03     | +7.05        | -           |
| 517.2     | 259.86       | -           | NYSE Composite           | 512.29    | +5.29   | +1.0  | -7.9      | +24.6        | -           |
| 7,713.18  | 6,211.33     | -           | NYSE Composite           | 7,666.22  | +37.35  | +0.5  | -2.54     | +7.59        | -           |
| 1,416.1   | 1,264.74     | -           | NASDAQ Composite         | 1,399.07  | +1.53   | +0.1  | -2.46     | +1.69        | -           |
| 2,519.1   | 1,750.82     | -           | NASDAQ Composite         | 2,580.33  | +45.32  | +1.8  | -4.8      | +2.46        | -           |
| 1,217.90  | 1,060.72     | -           | S&P 500                  | 1,194.52  | +7.07   | +0.6  | -2.26     | +3.32        | -           |
| 546.29    | 446.29       | -           | S&P MidCap               | 546.38    | +55.37  | +10.1 | -8.7      | +7.85        | -           |
| 656.11    | 515.59       | -           | Russell 2000             | 617.48    | +3.75   | +0.6  | -2.3      | +4.58        | -           |
| 12,436.38 | 10,368.52    | -           | Wall Street Journal      | 11,652.74 | +17.72  | +0.1  | -0.7      | -2.46        | -           |

| NYSE                      |        |       |       |       | AMEX                      |        |       |       |       | NASDAQ                    |        |       |       |       |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Most Active (\$1 or more) |        |       |       |       | Most Active (\$1 or more) |        |       |       |       | Most Active (\$1 or more) |        |       |       |       |
| Alcoa                     | 40,687 | 1.00  | +0.08 | +0.8% | Alcoa                     | 40,687 | 1.00  | +0.08 | +0.8% | Alcoa                     | 40,687 | 1.00  | +0.08 | +0.8% |
| Northwest                 | 26,884 | 1.32  | -0.08 | -6.0% | Northwest                 | 26,884 | 1.32  | -0.08 | -6.0% | Northwest                 | 26,884 | 1.32  | -0.08 | -6.0% |
| Alcoa                     | 26,884 | 1.32  | -0.08 | -6.0% | Alcoa                     | 26,884 | 1.32  | -0.08 | -6.0% | Alcoa                     | 26,884 | 1.32  | -0.08 | -6.0% |
| Alcoa                     | 10,368 | 15.46 | -0.10 | -0.9% | Alcoa                     | 10,368 | 15.46 | -0.10 | -0.9% | Alcoa                     | 10,368 | 15.46 | -0.10 | -0.9% |
| Alcoa                     | 25,191 | 25.82 | -0.10 | -0.4% | Alcoa                     | 25,191 | 25.82 | -0.10 | -0.4% | Alcoa                     | 25,191 | 25.82 | -0.10 | -0.4% |
| Alcoa                     | 18,155 | 13.75 | -0.10 | -0.7% | Alcoa                     | 18,155 | 13.75 | -0.10 | -0.7% | Alcoa                     | 18,155 | 13.75 | -0.10 | -0.7% |
| Alcoa                     | 12,727 | 20.77 | -0.10 | -0.5% | Alcoa                     | 12,727 | 20.77 | -0.10 | -0.5% | Alcoa                     | 12,727 | 20.77 | -0.10 | -0.5% |
| Alcoa                     | 12,727 | 20.77 | -0.10 | -0.5% | Alcoa                     | 12,727 | 20.77 | -0.10 | -0.5% | Alcoa                     | 12,727 | 20.77 | -0.10 | -0.5% |
| Alcoa                     | 12,727 | 20.77 | -0.10 | -0.5% | Alcoa                     | 12,727 | 20.77 | -0.10 | -0.5% | Alcoa                     | 12,727 | 20.77 | -0.10 | -0.5% |

| KEY DEFENSE STOCKS |      |       |       |       | KEY MUTUAL FUNDS        |       |       |       |      |
|--------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Name               | NY   | FE    | LAST  | % CHG | Name                    | NAV   | NAV   | % CHG | YTD  |
| Alliant Industries | 40   | 62.00 | +4.38 | +7.1% | Fidelity Invest. Global | 27.56 | -0.28 | -1.0% | -1.7 |
| Boeing             | 1.00 | 71.21 | +2.13 | +3.0% | Fidelity Invest. Global | 27.56 | -0.28 | -1.0% | -1.7 |
| Boeing             | 1.00 | 71.21 | +2.13 | +3.0% | Fidelity Invest. Global | 27.56 | -0.28 | -1.0% | -1.7 |
| Boeing             | 1.00 | 71.21 | +2.13 | +3.0% | Fidelity Invest. Global | 27.56 | -0.28 | -1.0% | -1.7 |
| Boeing             | 1.00 | 71.21 | +2.13 | +3.0% | Fidelity Invest. Global | 27.56 | -0.28 | -1.0% | -1.7 |
| Boeing             | 1.00 | 71.21 | +2.13 | +3.0% | Fidelity Invest. Global | 27.56 | -0.28 | -1.0% | -1.7 |
| Boeing             | 1.00 | 71.21 | +2.13 | +3.0% | Fidelity Invest. Global | 27.56 | -0.28 | -1.0% | -1.7 |
| Boeing             | 1.00 | 71.21 | +2.13 | +3.0% | Fidelity Invest. Global | 27.56 | -0.28 | -1.0% | -1.7 |
| Boeing             | 1.00 | 71.21 | +2.13 | +3.0% | Fidelity Invest. Global | 27.56 | -0.28 | -1.0% | -1.7 |
| Boeing             | 1.00 | 71.21 | +2.13 | +3.0% | Fidelity Invest. Global | 27.56 | -0.28 | -1.0% | -1.7 |

## EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates   |  |          |
|--|--|----------|
| Dollar buys  |  | €0.7434  |
| British pound  |  | £1.619   |
| Japanese yen (Jan. 15)   |  | 100.00   |
| South Korean won (Jan. 14)   |  | 1,011.10 |
| Commercial rates   |  |          |
| Bahrain (Dinar)  |  | €3.370   |
| British pound  |  | £1.619   |
| Canada (Dollar)  |  | 1.2162   |
| Denmark (Krone)  |  | 5.9612   |
| Egypt (Pound)  |  | \$130.60 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar)   |  | 7.9590   |
| Hungary (Forint)   |  | 106.80   |
| Indonesia (Rupiah)   |  | 1,000.00 |
| Israel (Shekel)  |  | 4.852    |
| Japan (Yen)  |  | 101.91   |
| Kuwait (Dinar)   |  | 2.915    |
| Norway (Krone)   |  | 6.2404   |
| Philippines (Peso)   |  | 55.64    |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal)   |  | 3.7500   |
| Singapore (Dollar)   |  | 1.0405   |
| South Korea (Won)  |  | 1,042.90 |
| Switzerland (Franc)  |  | 1.4638   |
| Thailand (Baht)  |  | 36.70    |
| U.S. dollar  |  | 1.0000   |
| (Military exchange rates are those used by the U.S. military for its facilities in the country of issuance for U.S. military personnel in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.) |  |          |
| U.S. dollar  |  | 1.0000   |
| (purchasing British pounds in Germany.)  |  |          |
| U.S. dollar  |  | 1.0000   |
| (purchasing British pounds in Germany.)  |  |          |
| U.S. dollar  |  | 1.0000   |
| (purchasing British pounds in Germany.)  |  |          |

Banking operations for reference. All figures are foreign currencies to the dollar, except for the U.S. dollar, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is represented in euros-to-dollar.

## PRECIOUS METALS

| New York Mercile |  |             |
|------------------|--|-------------|
| Gold             |  | \$427.70    |
| Silver           |  | \$6.580     |
| Platinum         |  | \$950.00    |
| Palladium        |  | \$1,200.00  |
| Rhodium          |  | \$1,500.00  |
| Iridium          |  | \$1,800.00  |
| Osmium           |  | \$2,000.00  |
| Ruthenium        |  | \$2,200.00  |
| Titanium         |  | \$2,400.00  |
| Vanadium         |  | \$2,600.00  |
| Chromium         |  | \$2,800.00  |
| Manganese        |  | \$3,000.00  |
| Iron             |  | \$3,200.00  |
| Copper           |  | \$3,400.00  |
| Nickel           |  | \$3,600.00  |
| Zinc             |  | \$3,800.00  |
| Lead             |  | \$4,000.00  |
| Aluminum         |  | \$4,200.00  |
| Magnesium        |  | \$4,400.00  |
| Silicon          |  | \$4,600.00  |
| Boron            |  | \$4,800.00  |
| Fluorine         |  | \$5,000.00  |
| Neon             |  | \$5,200.00  |
| Sodium           |  | \$5,400.00  |
| Magnesium        |  | \$5,600.00  |
| Aluminum         |  | \$5,800.00  |
| Silicon          |  | \$6,000.00  |
| Boron            |  | \$6,200.00  |
| Fluorine         |  | \$6,400.00  |
| Neon             |  | \$6,600.00  |
| Sodium           |  | \$6,800.00  |
| Magnesium        |  | \$7,000.00  |
| Aluminum         |  | \$7,200.00  |
| Silicon          |  | \$7,400.00  |
| Boron            |  | \$7,600.00  |
| Fluorine         |  | \$7,800.00  |
| Neon             |  | \$8,000.00  |
| Sodium           |  | \$8,200.00  |
| Magnesium        |  | \$8,400.00  |
| Aluminum         |  | \$8,600.00  |
| Silicon          |  | \$8,800.00  |
| Boron            |  | \$9,000.00  |
| Fluorine         |  | \$9,200.00  |
| Neon             |  | \$9,400.00  |
| Sodium           |  | \$9,600.00  |
| Magnesium        |  | \$9,800.00  |
| Aluminum         |  | \$10,000.00 |

Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America

## Sick: Don't be job hero, keep your germs at home

SICK, FROM PAGE 26

On average, says Dr. Kristin Nichol of the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center, a normally healthy working adult who contracts influenza will be sick — and highly contagious — for five to six days. And he or she will miss, on average, three to three days of work.

Those numbers speak volumes about the work ethic — or the sheer necessity — that propels people to work even when they are sick.

"People who don't think twice about keeping a child home from school won't think to stay home two days later when they have the same symptoms," says Roslyn Stone, an executive of Corporate Wellness who serves as chairwoman for the American Medical Association's and Centers for Disease Control's Workplace Flu Prevention Working Group.

When sick workers come to work, it's no bargain for employers.

Presenteeism (the opposite of absenteeism) costs companies as much as \$150 billion in lost productivity, higher health-care expenses and cascading absences due to contagion, according to a recent report in the Harvard Business Review.

While many human-resources departments have begun to get the message, sick workers still come to work anyway, no matter how many clients, customers or co-workers they infect, and no matter how poorly they work.

Cents and Sensibility  
Money tip of the day

## Dealing with a bad boss

CBS MarketWatch

**NEW YORK** — Being stuck with a bad boss can make it that much harder to go to work and to be productive while you're there.

An annual Gallup poll, conducted in August of 2004, found that only 10 percent of workers said they were somewhat or completely dissatisfied with their bosses.

But it seems that when a boss gets bad, he or she really gets bad — 29 percent of visitors to [www.badbossology.com/](http://www.badbossology.com/) want to have their boss under psychological tests. Another 48 percent say they would fire their boss if they could.

Got a bad boss? William and Kathleen Lundin, authors of "When Smart People Work for Dumb Bosses," recommend the following:

■ **Identify the problem.** Ask yourself where your bad boss's behavior comes from. Are you treated differently from other workers? Is your work deficient in some way? Or does your man-

ager's bad behavior stem from his or her shortcomings, such as a lack of managerial experience or insecurity? Figuring out where the behavior comes from can help you decide how to deal with it.

■ **Learn from it.** Having a bad boss can provide some valuable lessons, especially if you're hoping to move up in the company or elsewhere in the industry. You'll learn which management styles work and which don't. You'll also learn sound business decisions from dealing with the consequences of bad choices.

■ **Know when to leave.** There is a big difference between a personality quirk and destructive behavior. If you are truly made to feel uncomfortable at work, it's time to look for another job, even if you love the company you're with. Don't just settle for having a bad boss.

For more advice on handling your bad boss, visit [www.badbossology.com/](http://www.badbossology.com/). The Web site offers hints and tips, as well as forums for employees and employers alike to talk about their experiences.

Discover why so many people are saying...

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SFC

## Sunday Horoscope

The first quarter moon is the cheerleader on your shoulder shouting, "Go, go, go!" An impending deadline doesn't hurt, either, and there are new consequences for not meeting projections. It's all extremely motivating, and under the last few rays of Capricorn sun, we have the discipline to make it happen without emotional resistance today.

### TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(January 16).** The opportunities that come along this day are once in a lifetime. You feel that extra confidence would help you excel, but confidence comes from risking. So through this month and next, risk first, and you'll have a winning attitude this spring. May is perfect for interviews and developing your public persona. Love signs are Pisces and Taurus.

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

An uncharacteristically dole mood has you putting up with things you normally wouldn't. A remark here, a clutter pile there, a little bad behavior from the kids — it does add up. Resolve at least one of these issues by sundown.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

When you deserve better, and you know it, make a fuss! If you don't, people around you think you don't care. Also, return the sweater you got for Christmas now while you're still within the 30-day limit.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Friends look to you to keep them in line — what are they thinking? You're more likely to instigate mischief than to enforce rules. And for this very reason, you help people find their inner parent and take responsibility.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Revisiting childhood memories unlocks a current puzzling relationship dilemma. Like it or not, your parents are your parents and forever more shall be so. So take a breath, and step into the past to figure this one out.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Slightly sweet tooth of people who are trying to be perfect only causes you to poke and prod until you get the response you're looking for.

### Holiday Mathis



for — reality. Say goodbye to hearts and flowers, and let the healing begin.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** It feels moral to think that social status doesn't matter, but deep down, it still does. There's a need to see fancy people in their fancy clothes, laughing at witty exchanges — and a greater need to be a part of it.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Loved ones spill intimate words. You don't hear this every day if you did? Absorb kindness instead of tossing it immediately back to the giver. Accepting compliments well is a talent worth developing.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You're called to defend your honor in some small way. By doing an excellent job on the minor scale, you're preparing to do an excellent job on the major scale. It's all important, if not to you, then to someone significant to you.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The stars are like a giant cosmic vacuum cleaner lifting foreign particles from your life. But you love the foreign particles. Its disorder that makes life interesting. Let go of some dirt, and things will shine again.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** It's time to do what you normally wouldn't. A visit to the fringe is inspiring. Besides, your relationships need ingenuity to thrive. To stave away the old crotch, try something new tonight — Bombay sag potatoes, anyone?

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Family members clamor for your attention. If you feel like joining in the fun, go for it. But chances are, you'd like to focus on your career or hobby instead. Make sure to ask for what you need.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your subconscious is a swift of activity. Write down your rants, your insights, and your dreams. Somewhere in the scrawl, there is a clue about a hidden health issue that needs your attention.

Creators Syndicate

## Caesar named for operation?

I've read that the term "cesarean section" comes from the belief that Julius Caesar was delivered in this way. What is the evidence that the term came from the belief and not the belief from the term?

The name "Caesar" is a cognomen, a nickname given to one member of a Roman clan and borne by his descendants as a title of surname. No one knows who the original Caesar was, but his descendants within his clan, the Julii, continued to use his cognomen and formed a major branch of the clan.

According to a legend related by the Roman naturalist Pliny, the first Caesar was so called be-

cause he was cut from the womb of his dying mother (in Latin, "a caesio matris utero").

This etymology is dubious, but the name "Caesar" has continued to be associated with surgery to remove a child that cannot be delivered naturally.

Evidence for the belief that Julius Caesar, the most famous bearer of the cognomen, was himself delivered in this way dates from as early as 1540, but there is no authority for this notion.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. Our editors may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

## Sister should not blame others for husband's dangerous antics

**Dear Abby:** My oldest sister, "Daisy," is married to an emotionally unstable man. I'll call him Dwight. Dwight's claim to fame is bragging that he can kill people with his bare hands.

Last year, as a family get-together, he grabbed my sister-in-law "Myra" from behind without warning, pulling her hair, getting her into a choke hold and physically hurting her. Myra barely knows Dwight. She was terribly frightened and ended up pressing charges against him.

The next day I called and asked Daisy about it. Her reply was that Dwight often shows off his "abilities" by grabbing people. Abby, her husband is old enough to know better. He's in his late 50s, but Daisy's attitude was "boys will be boys."

Because Myra pressed charges, Dwight was arrested. Daisy hasn't spoken to me since. She won't return my phone calls or acknowledge birthday cards and has generally been giving me the silent treatment for a year. It is right for her to hold me responsible, since it was Myra who pressed charges?

**Stubbed Sister in Burbank**  
**Dear Stubbed Sister:** What Dwight did was childish and dangerous. Martial arts were

intended as a form of self-defense, not a way of getting attention at social gatherings. For an adult to have such a lapse in judgment is shocking, and he deserved to be arrested. Your sister should direct her anger at her husband, where it belongs, instead of at you. Myra was right to press charges. I hope it taught Dwight a much-needed lesson.

**Dear Abby**

**Dear Abby:** I am 41 years old and in my seventh month of pregnancy. I am a professional, the second-highest ranked woman in my office. I have prided myself on my professionalism during my pregnancy and didn't announce it until I was 21 weeks along.

One woman in my office insists on calling me "Little Mother" and rubbing my stomach. I am not comfortable with her touching my abdomen and have asked her not to refer to me as "Little Mother." I explained I didn't want others in the office to hear such comments. Today, in our office lobby, she again made the "mommum" reference and rubbed my stomach — with both hands. I lost it. I told her to stop it and leave my stomach alone. Now she gives me funny looks and says I am not happy being pregnant.

Abby, I have worked all through my pregnancy. I don't want anyone making a big deal of it. I feel the woman's conduct is unprofessional. I have tried hard not to let my pregnancy interfere with my work life, and I feel she is not allowing me the dignity and professional respect I deserve.

Where do people get the idea that rubbing a pregnant woman's stomach is acceptable? I wouldn't do that to someone I considered a friend, much less a co-worker.

Write for the "Little Mother" comments. Your thoughts, please.

— Pregnant Professional in Houston

**Dear Professional:** Believe it or not, your complaint is not unusual. I have heard from many pregnant women complaining that people they barely know, even complete strangers — feel entitled to touch their abdomens. I have no idea why anyone would feel entitled to invade someone's personal space that way. As to the "Little Mother" moniker — since you have spoken to the woman and she persists, ask her into your office and tell her in no uncertain terms that you consider her behavior disrespectful and unprofessional.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box #940, Great Falls, Va. 22064. Write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.pittsburgh.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

## Let veterans know they are remembered on Valentine's

**Dear Annie:** Year after year, your generous readers open their hearts to America's hospitalized veterans by participating in the Valentines for Vets program. This program encourages readers to deliver valentines to their nearest Department of Veterans Affairs hospital, in years past, it has resulted in millions of cards and letters for America's veterans. Last year, caring community members made more than 100,000 veteran patient visits, and hundreds more chose to become volunteers at one of our VA hospitals or outpatient clinics.

This success would not be possible without your support and that of your faithful and thoughtful readers. Teachers in schools, churches, scouting groups and social organizations have used this program to bring their students closer to those veterans who have served our country so valiantly, and gave them a greater understanding of our nation's history. In some areas, the students delivered their valentines in person. What your readers provide with their caring notes and well wishes can have more power to give these veterans hope than any treatment or pill ever prescribed. At VA, your readers will also find, through volunteering, many opportunities to pay tribute to our nation's veterans. No special skills are necessary, just a willingness to give the gift of their time and caring to our veterans.

The 2005 National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans is just around the corner, Feb. 13-19. We hope your readers will again let our veterans know that they are appreciated and that you are ready to encourage your readers to visit these veterans and thank them in person.

Addresses of our facilities can be obtained by looking in the telephone directory, by calling our toll-free number 1-800-827-1200 or by checking our Web site at [www.va.gov/volunteer](http://www.va.gov/volunteer). We look forward to another successful year of Valentines for Vets, and I know our veterans do as well. Sincerely,

— Montel Williams, 2005 Chairman, National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans

**Dear Montel Williams:** Thank you for once again giving us the opportunity to continue this worthwhile project. We know that means a great deal to each of us can never repay these courageous veterans for the sacrifices they have made on our behalf, but we can take the time to cheer them up and let them know they have not been forgotten.

### Annie's Mailbox



Every year, members of Camp Fire VA deliver valentines to our veterans, and Salvation Army volunteers distribute valentines, gifts and refreshments to various VA facilities around the country.

Teachers, you have always been extremely helpful and supportive in making this a class project, especially with those who are handicapped valentines. Our veterans are particularly gratified to know that today's young students recognize and appreciate them. We hope you will encourage your students to be creative and let them learn firsthand the satisfaction that comes from doing something for others.

Readers, the veterans would be thrilled if you could drop off your valentines in person and visit for a few minutes. If you do not have time enough to visit, a facility to stop by, you can mail your valentines. To find the location of the nearest VA hospital, you check your phone book access the VA Web site facility locator at [www.va.gov/directory](http://www.va.gov/directory), or call the toll-free number at 1-800-827-1200.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime authors of *Annie's Mailbox*. Write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Crossword, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

## RELIGION

# Church aims to appeal to cowboy spirit

BY LINDA STEWART BALL

The Dallas Morning News

PLANO, Texas — The Narrow Trail Cowboy Church in Plano may seem like a study in contradictions to some.

Held beneath a covered patio at the Love and War In Texas restaurant, it attracts more suburban professionals than real rural cowboys.

Yet it's one of three so-called cowboy churches that have sprung up in Collin County, Texas, in recent months with moral support from the Collin Baptist Association.

Statewide, there are more than 30. "This is a place where folks say they can worship God in pointy-toed cowboy boots or comfy tennis shoes without feeling judged or preached at."

"It's really laid-back," said restaurant owner and church co-founder Tye Phelps, who provides a free migas-and-venison-sausage breakfast half an hour before the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service starts. "The people who tend to show up are those who don't feel comfortable in typical church surroundings."

Narrow Trail Cowboy Church is far from traditional or typical.

For starters, there are no crosses in this Christian church. Neon beer signs cover its rustic wood and stone walls. Picnic tables are the pews, on which folks put their

Bibles or steaming cups of java.

And the restaurant's Shiner Texas Music Stage — an unabashed ad for the beer — is the pulpit.

Someone once cracked that the church could use a beer cooler as a baptismal pool.

Given the high cost of land in these parts, churches have been held in some pretty unusual spaces, including storefronts, theaters, hotels and schools. But a restaurant/bar?

"It doesn't matter where you are, if you're praising the Lord it can be in a bar or a church," said singer/songwriter Austin Cunningham, one of several country musicians who have performed at the restaurant on a Saturday night and swung back by to play more Gospel-oriented tunes at the church Sunday morning.

His song "The Narrow Trail" was a hit at the first service this fall. The lyrics tell of a cowboy who is "lured down a deceptive canyon by a whiskey bottle."

And the song is about a cowboy who is trying to stay on a straight and narrow trail.

The congregation quickly claimed the song's title as its own.

"The music is a big part of it," Phelps said of the church's appeal.

About 30 people, including a handful of kids, come each week.

"I love it," said Hoot Gibson, 57, of

Frisco, Texas, who rides a longhorn steer, sports a handlebar mustache and wears one of the few wide-brimmed hats to church.

"Everybody is so friendly," Gibson said. "It's real personable."

Many said the relaxed and informal fellowship, complete with good-natured ribbing, is a big draw.

They don't pass an offering plate at the Narrow Trail church. A metal bucket marked "tips" sits at the door, where some leave donations.

"We don't want to scare people off," said preacher John Myers, 42, a part-time student at the Dallas Theological Seminary who makes his living selling commercial real estate and restoring buildings.

Though he grew up on a farm/ranch in Kansas, Myers said he got "ciftied" and returned to his rural roots. He's raising his family in Lucas and was intrigued by the notion of the cowboy church he came across in his religious studies.

When he heard Phelps reminiscing on the radio about cowboy camp meetings he attended in his youth in Kerrville, Texas, he knew he had found a kindred spirit. "It's kind of a new phenomenon, an awakening going on across Texas and the country," Myers said of the church. "The first one was started up in Nashville."

Local churches are start-up cowboy churches in Celina, Royse City and the community of Rhea Mills, northwest of McKinney. There are more-established services in Waco, Abilene and Fort Worth.

"There are no pretensions, you can just be who you are," said Richard Hagar, director of church-starting for the Collin Baptist Association, which assists 105 churches in Collin County.

Organizers admit that Narrow Trail isn't a "true cowboy church" in the sense that folks have manure on their boots. It's more an Old West attitude.

"There are only a few hats here, and we take them off when we're praying," Myers said. "It's a church for people who don't care for church."

"I'm looking for people who have been out drinking Friday night and the wife has been saying, 'Go to church.'"

He says he seeks to change lives through the Scriptures.

So when he takes the stage in his new black cowboy hat and Western shirt, he keeps his message simple and guilt-free: God is love and offers forgiveness through Jesus.

Gerald Johnson, 47, a computer technician, said he was raised Baptist and had been going to a big church but never felt at ease.

"This is a little unorthodox, but it's great," Johnson said.

On a recent Sunday, as the rain poured down on the white tent-top attached to the restaurant's patio, the congregation tuned out the swoosh of cars driving by on Plano Parkway. Folks leaned forward to hear the soft-spoken testimony of a McKinney man who recently toured the Holy Land and said he stood where Moses once did.

The congregation listened in reverent awe. Myers followed up with an equally sober prayer.

"This is so wonderful," said Susie Coffman, 51, an executive assistant at Brookhaven College, after a recent Narrow Trail service.

"You go away from here feeling like you've been to church. It's uplifting."

## Christian rockers see Europeans as 'way more intense'

BY BRIAN BOWERS

Stars and Stripes

Americans in Europe got the rare opportunity to rock with some of Christian music's hottest artists and most promising newcomers last month.

Fans at Christ-mas Rock Night in Germany and Winter Wonder Rock Festival in the Netherlands were able to catch performances by Pillar, the O.C. Superheroes, Project 86, Barlow Girl, Sanctus Real and the hard-rocking new group Day of Fire.

While such festivals are common stateside, few make their way to secularized Europe. But that doesn't mean they're less welcome.

"I think they were really more receptive," said Joshua Brown, frontman for Day of Fire.

"They really want to rock, they really want to thrash around, but they're really hungry for the Spirit of God."

Although the cultures are different, people are the same, Brown said. "It's the same needs. People are looking for the same things overseas as they are in America. People are looking for acceptance and people are looking for love."

Among those singing, dancing and praising at the Dutch and German festivals were members of the U.S. military community. "They seemed really excited to

have American rock music over there," he said.

Brown said he enjoys reaching out to U.S. troops because his wife grew up in a military family.

"I am so thankful for our troops," he said. "Any time I see someone in a uniform, I like to give them a CD."

For Day of Fire, whose "Cornerstone" spent much of December at No. 3 on the Christian radio rock chart, the festivals were just one part of European concert tour.

"The crowds were a little smaller in Europe than they are in the States, but they were way more into the music. ... They came to rock," Brown said.

Just a few years ago, a Christian concert tour would have seemed unimaginable to Brown. He was lead singer for a successful group known as Full Devil Jacket, which spent a year and a half touring with Nickelback, Fuel and Creed. During that time, Brown lived the stereotypical rockster lifestyle.

"Five years ago, I was on drugs and I was looking for another high. I never thought I could kick it or that I would want to kick it," Brown said.

That changed after a heroin overdose and a stint in rehab.

"God came into my life when I was almost dead," he said. "He's an aggressive God."

Brown turned away from Full Devil Jacket and the music busi-

ness after he realized the old band and his new life didn't mesh. However, Brown eventually met Gregg Hionis and the two formed Day of Fire.

Brown's personal experience makes Day of Fire's self-titled debut album hard-edged and genuine. Most of the disc's songs feature guitar-driven rock and Brown's throaty vocals. It opens with "Through the Fire," an assertive account of God promising to see a believer through trials. The hit "Cornerstone" is a bit slower but no less intense as it describes relying on God's strength. Other excellent tracks are the hard-hitting "I Am the Door," which examines the need to turn away from sin, and the slower "Rain Song."

The songs are packed with images touching on Brown's struggles, as well as his new life.

"I like music for the person that I used to be," he said. "Because God came into my life and healed me of drug addiction and completely changed my heart and my mind. I want other people to know who he is. ... My mission is just to introduce people to the Jesus that I know. He's not a book of rules or a church service, he's the living God."

On the Web:

[www.dayoffire.com](http://www.dayoffire.com).

Today's Praise is a roundup of news and reviews from the contemporary Christian music industry. It appears on the Religion page.

e-mail Brian Bowers at: [bowersb@strips.osd.mil](mailto:bowersb@strips.osd.mil)



Photo courtesy of Essential Records

Joshua Brown, front, and Gregg Hionis, left, are the core members of Day of Fire. Brown originally made a name for himself in mainstream music as the lead singer of Full Devil Jacket.



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Location: Vaihingen

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Applicants should visit ManTech's website at [www.mantech.com](http://www.mantech.com) employment opportunities for additional information on the specified requirement #.

Applicants then enter their resume on the electronic system and notify [carolyn.morningside@mantech.com](mailto:carolyn.morningside@mantech.com) confirming the request for consideration; specify position title and Requirement # on subject line.



## SCOREBOARD

## AFN® &amp; Radio

## Sunday

**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.**—College basketball: Iowa St. at Oklahoma So. (td).

**AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.**—College football: East-West Shrine game.

## Monday

**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.**—College basketball: Michigan St. at Wisconsin.

**AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.**—College basketball: Indiana at Pacific and Radio, 10:30 p.m.—NFL AFC Divisional playoff game, Indianapolis at Cincinnati.

## Tuesday

**AFN-Sports, 11:30 p.m.**—College basketball: Georgia Tech at North Carolina St. (td).

## Wednesday

**AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m.**—Motorcycle racing: The World Supercross, Phoenix (td).

**AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.**—College basketball: Virginia at Duke.

## Thursday

**AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m.**—Bowling: PBA El Paso Classic (td).

**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.**—Golf: Sony Open, final round, Maui.

## Friday

**AFN-Sports, 6:30 p.m.**—NFL AFC Divisional playoff game, Minnesota at Philadelphia (td).

**AFN-Sports, 9:30 p.m.**—NFL AFC Divisional playoff game, Indianapolis at New England (td).

All times are Central European Time, not indicated are daylight savings. All listings are subject to change. Visit [www.mfn.net](http://www.mfn.net) for more information.

## Pro football

## NFL playoffs

**Wild-card playoffs, Saturday, Jan. 8**  
St. Louis 27, Seattle 20  
N.Y. Jets 20, San Diego 17  
OT

## Sunday, Jan. 9

**Divisional playoffs, Sunday, Jan. 9**  
Minnesota 31, Green Bay 17  
OT

## Monday, Jan. 10

**N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh**  
St. Louis at Atlanta

## Tuesday, Jan. 11

**Minnesota at New England**  
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia

## Wednesday, Jan. 12

**Conference Championships**  
Sunday, Jan. 12  
AFC Championship game  
NFC Championship game

## Thursday, Jan. 13

**Super Bowl XXXIV**  
Jacksonville, Fla.  
AFC vs. NFC

## College basketball

## Men's AP Top 25 schedule

**Saturday's games**  
No. 1 Illinois at Northwestern  
No. 2 Kansas at Colorado  
No. 3 North Carolina at No. 4 Wake Forest  
No. 6 Oklahoma State at Iowa State  
No. 5 Syracuse at Providence  
No. 8 Kentucky at Georgia  
No. 10 Texas at Connecticut  
No. 11 Mississippi State vs. Arkansas  
No. 12 Connecticut vs. Rutgers at the Hartford Civic Center

No. 14 Connecticut vs. Oregon State  
No. 16 Gonzaga vs. Pepperdine  
No. 17 Arizona at UCLA  
No. 18 Cincinnati vs. No. 19 Louisville  
No. 20 Pittsburgh vs. Seton Hall  
No. 21 George Washington vs. Massachusetts

No. 22 Marquette vs. North Florida  
No. 24 Iowa vs. Minnesota  
No. 25 Oklahoma at Baylor

## Sunday's games

No. 1 Duke vs. Virginia  
No. 2 Georgia Tech at North Carolina State  
No. 3 Boston College at West Virginia  
No. 14 Michigan State at Wisconsin

## Friday's men's scores

**EAST**  
Bates 71, Bowdoin 65  
Cornell 68, Brooklyn 56  
Iowa St. 64, Iowa 60

**WEST**  
Utah 71, Clarkson 71  
John Jay 52, York 56  
Idaho 74, O'Connell 66

**Midwest**  
Lebanon 59, Michigan 54  
Northwestern 77, Carleton 58  
Middlebury 57, Connecticut Coll. 54  
St. Francis 68, Fredonia 58

**Pitt-Greeneburg 85, Middlebury 47**  
St. Francis 68, Fredonia 58  
Pitt-Greeneburg 85, Middlebury 47  
St. Francis 68, Fredonia 58

**South**  
UConn 71, Wake Forest 66  
RPI 66, New Paltz 70  
SUNY at Vassar 67

**Utah 71, Clarkson 71**  
John Jay 52, York 56  
Idaho 74, O'Connell 66

**Midwest**  
Lebanon 59, Michigan 54  
Northwestern 77, Carleton 58  
Middlebury 57, Connecticut Coll. 54  
St. Francis 68, Fredonia 58

**Pitt-Greeneburg 85, Middlebury 47**  
St. Francis 68, Fredonia 58  
Pitt-Greeneburg 85, Middlebury 47  
St. Francis 68, Fredonia 58

**South**  
UConn 71, Wake Forest 66  
RPI 66, New Paltz 70  
SUNY at Vassar 67

**Utah 71, Clarkson 71**  
John Jay 52, York 56  
Idaho 74, O'Connell 66

**Midwest**  
Lebanon 59, Michigan 54  
Northwestern 77, Carleton 58  
Middlebury 57, Connecticut Coll. 54  
St. Francis 68, Fredonia 58

**Pitt-Greeneburg 85, Middlebury 47**  
St. Francis 68, Fredonia 58  
Pitt-Greeneburg 85, Middlebury 47  
St. Francis 68, Fredonia 58

Minot St. 71, Black Hills 65  
North Dakota 71, Nebraska-Omaha 60  
Northwestern, Minn. 81, Presentation 67  
S. Dakota Tech 72, Dickinson St. 67  
St. Francis-Huron 85, Jamestown 84  
St. Norbert 71, Lake Forest 57  
Warburg 78, Cent. Iowa 70

**West**  
Wayne, Neb. 87, Winona St. 84, OT  
Texas-San Antonio 79, Nicholls 68  
Trinity, Texas 78, Texas Tech 77

**Far West**  
Nebraska-Kearney 102, Colo. Colo. Springs 69

**Women's AP Top 25 faced**  
Friday  
1. Duke (16-1) at North Carolina 8-75, Next vs. Georgia Tech, Monday, Jan. 17.

2. North Carolina 8-75, Next vs. Oklahoma, Sunday.

3. Oklahoma 8-75, Next vs. Alabama, Sunday.

4. Alabama 8-75, Next vs. Texas, Saturday.

5. Texas 8-75, Next vs. Florida, Saturday.

6. Florida 8-75, Next vs. Tennessee, Saturday.

7. Tennessee 8-75, Next vs. Kentucky, Saturday.

8. Kentucky 8-75, Next vs. Michigan State, Saturday.

9. Michigan State 8-75, Next vs. North Carolina, Saturday.

10. North Carolina 8-75, Next vs. Oklahoma, Saturday.

11. Oklahoma 8-75, Next vs. Texas, Saturday.

12. Texas 8-75, Next vs. Alabama, Sunday.

13. Alabama 8-75, Next vs. Georgia Tech, Monday, Jan. 17.

14. Georgia Tech 8-75, Next vs. North Carolina, Sunday.

15. North Carolina 8-75, Next vs. Oklahoma, Sunday.

16. Oklahoma 8-75, Next vs. Alabama, Sunday.

17. Alabama 8-75, Next vs. Texas, Saturday.

18. Texas 8-75, Next vs. Florida, Saturday.

19. Florida 8-75, Next vs. Tennessee, Saturday.

20. Tennessee 8-75, Next vs. Kentucky, Saturday.

21. Kentucky 8-75, Next vs. Michigan State, Saturday.

22. Michigan State 8-75, Next vs. North Carolina, Sunday.

23. North Carolina 8-75, Next vs. Oklahoma, Sunday.

24. Oklahoma 8-75, Next vs. Texas, Saturday.

25. Texas 8-75, Next vs. Alabama, Sunday.

26. Alabama 8-75, Next vs. Georgia Tech, Monday, Jan. 17.

27. Georgia Tech 8-75, Next vs. North Carolina, Sunday.

28. North Carolina 8-75, Next vs. Oklahoma, Sunday.

29. Oklahoma 8-75, Next vs. Alabama, Sunday.

30. Alabama 8-75, Next vs. Texas, Saturday.

31. Texas 8-75, Next vs. Florida, Saturday.

32. Florida 8-75, Next vs. Tennessee, Saturday.

33. Tennessee 8-75, Next vs. Kentucky, Saturday.

34. Kentucky 8-75, Next vs. Michigan State, Saturday.

35. Michigan State 8-75, Next vs. North Carolina, Sunday.

36. North Carolina 8-75, Next vs. Oklahoma, Sunday.

37. Oklahoma 8-75, Next vs. Alabama, Sunday.

38. Alabama 8-75, Next vs. Texas, Saturday.

39. Texas 8-75, Next vs. Florida, Saturday.

40. Florida 8-75, Next vs. Tennessee, Saturday.

**Golf**  
Southern Cal. 67, Arizona 54  
W. Baptist 66, Warner Pacific 67  
Texas Tech 66, Texas 66  
Slovak Republic 66, Cornell, Iowa 38

## Sony Open

**Friday**  
At Waialae Country Club  
Purse: \$4.5 million  
Schedule: Table Par  
Second round  
Singles  
Men

Shigeki Maruyama 67-65-132  
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**Tennis**  
John O'Neil 70-78-148  
Justin Bull 70-78-148  
Vaughn Taylor 72-78-148  
John Pouter 74-74-148  
Kevin Ma 76-72-148  
Takahashi Kiyomasa 76-72-148  
Kevin Ma 76-72-148  
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**Baseball**  
John O'Neil 70-78-148  
Justin Bull 70-78-148  
Vaughn Taylor 72

## High school basketball

### Boys basketball

**Division II, HS 49 (Friday at Heidelberg)**  
**Int'l. Sch. of Brussels** 11 15 12-19-40  
**Top scorers:** ITC: Nick Forrester 14, Robb Esch 14; Heid: T.C. Blanks 17, Tyrone Wesley 15, Brandon Grant 10, Chris Jones 10, Desmond James 8.

**Netowrky:** Grant pulled Heidelberg with 7 rebounds, 6 steals and 4 assists. His teammate, Damon Fleming, added 6 rebounds and 3 steals. Heid was led by Esch, who had 6 rebounds and 3 steals.

**Heidelberg** 10, 15 18-20-45  
**HSR** 44 21 16 20-45  
**Heidelberg** 21 16 20-45  
**Top scorers:** ITC: Esch 14, Gordon 11; Heid: Jones 11, Blanks 18, Grant 12, Wesley 10.

**Netowrky:** ITC pulled the lions with 7 and 4 assists. Traammas Kobayashi Kliner and Steve Harvey added 6 rebounds, 5 assists. Alastair Thomas grabbed key rebounds for the Raiders. Heidelberg improved to 2-0.

**Heidelberg** 33, 15B 10

**Ramstein 14, Wiesbaden 12**

**Top scorers:** Ram: Allen 23, Marquison Showers 11; Eir: Murray 8, West-Robert Edwards 24, David Bradford 13, 43-22

**Netowrky:** After falling behind 44-22 to the Raiders, Wiesbaden closed the game to 2 points late in the 4th quarter, before Ramstein connected on 7-of-9 free throws to clinch the victory. For the evening, Wiesbaden led 13-12 from the line.

**3-JV, Ramstein 33, Wiesbaden 22**

**Division II**

**Visbeck 71, SH 64**

**SHAPE 20 11 17-71**

**Top scorers:** SHP: Joe Putnam 17, 12-16; Fowler 19, Kodak Reed 12, Rod Coulham 3, Matt Anderson 2, Niko Vancura 2, 12-16

**Netowrky:** Johnson sank 5-of-6 3-pointers. Vernon led Visbeck with 10 rebounds; 6 assists and 3 steals. SHP was led by 6 SHAP: got 6 rebounds from Fowler and 6 assists from Putnam.

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**Netowrky:** ITC pulled the lions with 7 and 4 assists. Traammas Kobayashi Kliner and Steve Harvey added 6 rebounds, 5 assists. Alastair Thomas grabbed key rebounds for the Raiders. Heidelberg improved to 2-0.

**Heidelberg** 33, 15B 10

**Ramstein 14, Wiesbaden 12**

**Top scorers:** Ram: Allen 23, Marquison Showers 11; Eir: Murray 8, West-Robert Edwards 24, David Bradford 13, 43-22

**Netowrky:** After falling behind 44-22 to the Raiders, Wiesbaden closed the game to 2 points late in the 4th quarter, before Ramstein connected on 7-of-9 free throws to clinch the victory. For the evening, Wiesbaden led 13-12 from the line.

**3-JV, Ramstein 33, Wiesbaden 22**

**Division II**

**Visbeck 71, SH 64**

**SHAPE 20 11 17-71**

**Top scorers:** SHP: Joe Putnam 17, 12-16; Fowler 19, Kodak Reed 12, Rod Coulham 3, Matt Anderson 2, Niko Vancura 2, 12-16

**Netowrky:** Johnson sank 5-of-6 3-pointers. Vernon led Visbeck with 10 rebounds; 6 assists and 3 steals. SHP was led by 6 SHAP: got 6 rebounds from Fowler and 6 assists from Putnam.

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with 6. Contreras was overt with 6 and Allison Hagen followed with 5 points. Johnson handed out 4 assists, and Contreras made 2 of 3 free throws. Giessen, Brandy, Gray and Amber Singleton each grabbed 4 rebounds.

**Graben 65, Giessen 37**

**(Saturday at Heidelberg)**

**Koblenz 28, 15 7-48**

**Top scorers:** Ansb: Britton 27, John 18, Jackson 11, Darby 11; Heid: Gray 12, Shawn Jackson 11, Darby 11.

**Netowrky:** Heid pulled re-bouncers with 8 and 8 teammates. Britton and Jackson dished out 6 and 4 assists, respectively. Defending Gruben 53 champion Ansbach improved to 5-0. Ansbach is scheduled to host Baumholder on Friday and Saturday.

**Heidelberg 32, Heidelberg 15**

**(Friday at Baumholder)**

**Baumholder 15, 15 13-34**

**Top scorers:** Heid: Eir Smalls 13, Mica Nicholson 9; Baum: Thiel 15, 35 12-52

**Netowrky:** Shellas supplemented her scoring with 10 steals. Dyer, who made 1 steal and 1 point, who made 2 steals, each collected 10 rebounds.

**Heidelberg 15, Baumholder 11**

**Heidelberg 12, 17 12-35**

**Top scorers:** Heid: Vanessa Turner 15, Lisa Smith 15, Gordon 6, Baum 15, 2-31

**Netowrky:** Heid pulled re-bouncers and Ashley Gass 6 for Heidelbergs, which will have a 1-0 record on Friday night at Baumholder. Dyer pulled down 7 rebounds and Karyannas for Baumholder. The 1-0 Bucs are next scheduled Friday and Saturday at Baumholder.

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# Johnson's threes, 32 points lift Vilseck over SHAPE 71-64

BY RUSTY BRYAN  
Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM, Germany — Jamaal Johnson made consecutive three-pointers just after halftime Friday night to spark the Vilseck Falcons to a 71-64 victory over the SHAPE Spartans in a Division II game.

"The idea was to come out and put the heat on them," said Johnson, who went 5-for-6 from behind the arc and scored 32 points.

Johnson's threes after the break — his fourth and fifth of the night — tied the game at 42-21 into the third quarter. Vilseck trailed 36-32 at the half.

SHAPE led just once more, 57-56 with 4:16 remaining in the game, before Johnson hit a field goal to give Vilseck the lead for good.

Free throws were a key part of the Vilseck victory. The Falcons played the final five minutes of the game in the bonus situation, and were in the double bonus for the final 2:33.

"We had some of their guys in foul trouble at halftime," Johnson said. "We planned to take the ball to the hole and win the game at the line."

The plan worked, but just barely. The Falcons shot just 15-for-31 from the free-throw line.

Josh Brooks added 18 points and eight rebounds for Vilseck, which also got 12 points and 10 rebounds from Aaron Vernon.

## Boys basketball

Joe Putman led SHAPE with 27 points and seven rebounds. The Spartans dipped to 3-4 on Saturday after Ramstein handed them a 79-40 defeat.

In other games of note Friday and Saturday:

### Mannheim rallies past Vilseck:

At Mannheim, steals by Desmond Brown and Rickey Gardner fueled a 15-9 fourth-quarter run to give the Bison their sixth victory of the season, 49-47.

Brown led Mannheim with 14 points. Jamal Womble added nine points and five rebounds for the Bison. Earl Lee scored seven points and pulled down a game-high 15 rebounds.

The Bison, whose only loss of the season came against Division I power Heidelberg, play in Kaiserslautern on Friday night against the unbeaten Division I Red Raiders.

Kevin Pollock led Vilseck with 17 points and 11 rebounds.

Vilseck (3-1) travels to Black Forest Academy on Friday and Saturday.

### Lions sweep ISB:

At Heidelberg, the defending Division I champs improved to 5-2 with a 61-49 victory Friday and a 73-45 win Saturday over the International School of Brussels Raiders.

T.C. Blanks led Heidelberg

with 17 points Friday and followed with 18 Saturday. Brandon Grant had six steals and four assists on Friday and seven steals and four assists on Saturday.

Next up for Heidelberg is a Friday night game at home against Ramstein, a team which defeated the Lions 40-35 at Ramstein in December.

ISB (2-3) plays at SHAPE on Wednesday before hosting Wiesbaden on Friday and Saturday.

**Naples sets up showdown:** At Livorno, Italy, Naples hammered Livorno 82-43 on Friday and Milan 56-15 on Saturday to set up a battle of the unbeaten this Friday and Saturday at Aviano.

Mark Peary led Naples in scoring on Friday with 16 points. Andrew Watson led the defending European Division III champs on Saturday with 16 points.

### Ramstein dumps Wiesbaden:

At Wiesbaden, Allen Weaver went 13-for-13 from the free-throw line to help the Royals defeat the Warriors 74-67 on Friday.

Weaver scored 32 points.

The Royals returned home Saturday and ran their record to 4-2 with a 79-40 victory over SHAPE.

Ramstein will host unbeaten Kaiserslautern on Wednesday night. Wiesbaden (3-2) and next plays at International School of Brussels on Friday and Saturday.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.estrupes.osd.mil



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Vilseck's Jamaal Johnson leads the break against Mannheim on Saturday in Mannheim, Germany. Mannheim defeated Vilseck 49-47. On Friday, Johnson scored 32 points in Vilseck's 71-64 win over SHAPE.

# Sanders scores 22, Vilseck rolls to third straight win

BY RUSTY BRYAN  
Stars and Stripes



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Mannheim's Jasmine Lee is fouled while going up for a shot against Vilseck on Saturday in Mannheim, Germany. Mannheim won 47-45.

MANNHEIM, Germany — Playing for just the third time this season the Vilseck Lady Falcons rolled to a 38-23 victory over SHAPE.

LaPorche Sanders made four three-pointers in the opening 16 minutes as Vilseck took a 28-12 halftime lead and romped to its third victory of the season.

"It's easier to play once you get the lead," said Sanders, who was 4-for-8 from behind the arc en route to a 22-point performance. "We're trying to work on our rhythm, and we got a good run going in the first quarter."

Vilseck claimed 40 and 31-point victories over Hohenfels in its only previous outings of the season. That was expected to change Saturday, when the Lady Falcons faced Division II contender Mannheim, but after Friday night's victory, Vilseck was ready for the challenge.

"This team's been together for two years," said guard Cathy de la Rosa, who scored six points and made four steals against SHAPE. "We've got confidence."

In other games of note on Friday and Saturday:

**Mannheim rallies to sixth win:** At Mannheim, Vilseck held tough

## Girls basketball

until the final moments when Mannheim's Nyessa Green went 4-for-4 from the line to give the Lady Bison a hard-fought 47-45 victory.

Green, who scored 21 points, made six steals, grabbed five rebounds and scored the final four points of the game.

Kelsey Chavarria grabbed 16 rebounds and Amanda Knox 10 in the victory for the Lady Bison (6-1). They face unbeaten Kaiserslautern on Friday.

Vilseck, which got only six points from Sanders, was led by 16 points from Ebony Chambers and 10 from Jessica Linka.

The Lady Falcons are taking a 3-1 record into Friday and Saturday's games at Black Forest Academy.

**Aviano tramples Marymount:** At Aviano, the defending Italy champion Saints (4-0) held visiting Marymount to 41 points for the weekend.

Aviano took 42-2 and 41-1 courtesy-rule victories on Friday and Saturday.

Marymount's Stefania Palma scored all three of her team's points.

Ten-point outings by Kassie Mangosing on Friday and by Cherie McNeely on Saturday topped the score sheet for Aviano. The Saints hosts archival Naples this Friday and Saturday.

**Heidelberg sweeps ISB:** At Heidelberg, the Lady Lions stretched their winning streak to three straight with 30-28 and 36-28 victories over the visiting Raiders.

Heidelberg got 17 points from Ree Lee Washington on Friday. She scored 11 Saturday. The Lady Lions (3-4) will take on Ramstein on Friday.

ISB (3-2) plays at SHAPE on Wednesday before returning home to host Wiesbaden on Friday and Saturday.

**Ansbach marches on:** At Giessen, defending European Division III champion Ansbach got 23 points from Brittney Britton on Friday in a 68-38 victory over the Lady Griffins.

Britton scored 27 in Saturday's 68-37 victory.

Keke Johnson scored 19 on Friday and 16 on Saturday for the Lady Cougars (5-0), who host Baumholder on Friday.

Giessen (0-6) plays next at Frankfurt International School on Tuesday.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.estrupes.osd.mil

# Poor putting costs Wie shot at weekend

## 15-year-old struggles on greens, misses cut by seven in Sony Open

By DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Her cheeks were stained with dried tears. A box of tissue was at her feet if she needed them.

Only after her week at the Sony Open was over did 15-year-old Michelle Wie finally get her age.

"I'm just going to go for some retail therapy," she said.

She might have better luck in the mall. The kid couldn't buy a putt at Waialae Country Club.

The result was a 4-over 74 in the second round on Friday, with a three-putt from 8 feet for triple bogey on her sixth hole that shattered her hopes of becoming the first female in 60 years to make the cut on the PGA Tour.

Wie ended on a positive note with a 10-foot birdie putt, walking off the 18th green with a rare smile.

All that got her was a tie for 128th, better than 14 men and the same score as Paul Casey, who four months ago was playing for Europe in the Ryder Cup.

She finished at 9-over 149, seven shots below the cut line and 17 shots behind Shigeki Maruyama, who had a one-shot lead going into Justin Rose and Brett Quigley joining late a weekend at Waialae without his biggest star.

"I think I just tried too hard," Wie said.

The expectations were higher, especially after the she shot 68 in

the second round last year with birdies on two of the last three holes to miss the cut by one shot. It was the best score by a female competing on a men's tour.

"Missing the cut by one last year, I kind of took it for granted that I was going to play better," Wie said. "Last year, everything went too easily."

But she faced tougher odds this time around, mainly the strong Kona wind that came out of the opposite direction and made it difficult to find fairways.

Wie's problems came on the greens. She didn't make the birdie putts when she had them, and, by the end of the round, her putts became tougher. And the triple bogey crushed her spirit.

"I was like, 'Oh, God, this is not what I wanted,'" Wie said.

"Missing putt after putt, your shoes kind of get heavier and it gets harder, because your confidence goes down. Then you make a couple of bogeys and I thought, 'It's just not my day today.'"

Maybe it just wasn't a day for youth.

Four players from the Champions Tour all made the cut, including 53-year-old Dick Mast. He qualified Monday, then tied his career low with a 64 on Friday and had only six shots out of the lead.

Craig Stadler (69), Peter Jacobson (68) and Tom Kite (71) all get to stick around this weekend.

Not so for Wie.

Her hopes came undone when



Michelle Wie can't get her putt to drop in on the 17th green during the second round of the Sony Open on Friday at the Waialae Country Club in Honolulu. Wie finished the round 9 over, seven shots below the cut line.

she was even par for the round, needing a 67 to make the cut, and her tee shot found the right rough on the sixth hole, blocked by tall, skinny palms. Wie found an opening and tried to play a low hook around the trees, but the ball never made it back to the short grass.

She left her wedge short, chipped over a hump to 8 feet and took three putts before she was done.

And then she was done. "I thought, 'OK, make six birdies instead of three.' I really tried out there," she said.

Maruyama made it look easy, jumping into contention by playing a three-hole stretch around the turn in 4 under par, an 8-under 63 on the eighth, holding the bunker shot for eagle on the par-5 ninth, and making a 20-foot birdie on the 10th. He held it together the rest of the way and was at 8-under-132.

"I was worried about my game, first tournament of my year," he said. "I'm not nervous now."

# L.A.'s Gagne among 89 to file for arbitration

By RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

Eric Bagne, Lance Berkman and Ben Sheets were among the players who filed for salary arbitration Friday, joining Roger Clemens in the process baseball management hates most.

Clemens, who became a free agent after the season, accepted Houston's offer of arbitration last month and will be among those who exchange proposed salaries with their teams on Tuesday.

Clemens, who still has not decided whether to retire, is coming off his record seventh Cy Young Award and could propose a record amount in arbitration, topping the \$18.5 million filed by New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter before the 2001 season.

Following the departures of Carlos Beltran and Jeff Kent, Houston might feel pressure to retain Clemens, who became a drawing card last year, his first season with his hometown Astros.

Philadelphia second baseman Placido Polanco and Seattle left-hander Ron Villone also became free agents and accepted arbitration. The other players in arbitration all have less than six years of major league service.

Many baseball owners dislike arbitration because it forces them to pay their players as much as comparable players on other teams.

Eighty-nine players are in arbitration, but many are expected to agree to contracts before the scheduled swap of proposed salaries.

Three players settled before the union submitted the filings Friday, with Chicago White Sox center fielder Aaron Rowand agreeing to a deal that guarantees

him \$8.5 million over the next three seasons. Oakland designated hitter Erubiel Durazo accepted a \$4.7 million, one-year contract, and Washington first baseman Nick Johnson agreed to a \$14.5 million, one-year deal.

After filing, San Diego right-hander Scott Linebrink agreed to a two-year contract that guarantees him \$2,275,000.

Gagne, the 2003 NL Cy Young Award winner, was awarded \$5 million by an arbitrator last year rather than his \$8 million request from the Los Angeles Dodgers. Owners won four of seven cases that went to hearings and lead players 263-197 since arbitration began in 1974.

Berkman, who is eligible for free agency after next season, tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee in November while playing flag football and is expected to miss the start of the season. Sheets, eligible for free agency after the 2006 season, was 12-14 with a 2.70 ERA and 264 strikeouts for Milwaukee last year.

Among free agents, outfielder Raul Mondesi agreed to a \$1 million, one-year contract with the Atlanta Braves. He played for Pittsburgh and Anaheim last year, but his season was cut short by a lawsuit that occupied his time and a leg injury.

"You look at stats up through 2003 and I was averaging almost 30 home runs a year and almost 90 RBIs and he's a Gold Glove caliber outfielder," Braves general manager John Schuerholz said.

"We really think he adds a lot of substance to our outfield."

Right-hander Chad Fox agreed to a minor league contract with the Chicago Cubs and would get a \$575,000, one-year deal if he is added to the major league roster.

# Real Salt Lake takes Besagno, 16, first in MLS draft

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Nicolas Besagno could only think of one word to describe his feelings when expansion team Real Salt Lake made him the top pick in the Major League Soccer draft Friday.

"Shock," Besagno said.

The 16-year-old midfielder from Maple Valley, Wash., is the second youngest player to be drafted No. 1. Freddy Adu was 14 years old when he was picked last year by D.C. United.

"It's an honor," Besagno said. "The first draft pick's always the one everyone notices. It's just amazing."

Besagno played 20 games with the Under-17 U.S. men's national team and will be reunited at Real Salt Lake with former Under-17 men's coach Steve Ellinger.

## Sports briefs

"He has all the tools to be a very young star in this league," Ellinger said. "Knowing what I know, there's no way I'm going to let somebody else get him. That's why I had to get him with the first pick."

The first round was loaded with defensive talent. Seven of the 12 picks were defenders, two were defensive midfielders and one was a goalkeeper.

Club Deportivo Chivas USA, an expansion team that will play in Los Angeles this season, selected South Carolina goalkeeper Brad Guzan with the second pick.

Chicago next took UCLA forward Chad Barrett. San Jose acquired the fourth pick through a

trade with FC Dallas and selected defensive midfielder Danny O'Rourke from Indiana.

**Judge dismisses parts of Neuhelsh suit, keeps core issue**

SEATTLE — A judge threw out part of former Washington football coach Rick Neuhelsh's wrongful termination lawsuit Friday, saying he was not entitled to pursue his claim of defamation against the NCAA.

Nevertheless, Neuhelsh's central claims — that the university wrongly fired him and that the NCAA wrongly meddled in the case — will be allowed to go to trial later this month.

The trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 24.

In four seasons with the Huskies, Neuhelsh compiled a 33-16 record, including a Rose Bowl vic-

tory in 2001 and a No. 3 national ranking. Former athletic director Barbara Hedges fired him in June 2003 after he lied to her about interviewing for a job with the San Francisco 49ers and about his participation in NCAA men's basketball gambling pools.

**Walchofer wins downhill on Luoberhorn; Miller third**

WENGEN, Switzerland — Michael Walchofer led Austria to a 1-2 finish in a World Cup downhill Saturday while overall leader Bode Miller was third on the famed Luoberhorn, the longest course on the circuit.

Walchofer covered the demanding 2.8-mile run in 1 minute, 27.05 seconds — 0.09 ahead of Christoph Gruber. It was the first downhill victory of the season for Walchofer, the reigning world champion in the discipline.

Miller was 0.18 behind the winner and managed to take third despite skipping the morning inspection run. The American stretched his overall lead to 258 points.

**Goetsch wins Cup downhill; Kostelic takes overall lead**

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy — Austria's Renate Goetsch on Saturday won a women's downhill for her third victory in four days. Croatia's Janica Kostelic showed she is back at the summit of World Cup skiing after missing all of last season.

Goetsch posted a winning time of 1 minute, 37.27 seconds — 0.29 ahead of Kostelic, who took the lead in the overall World Cup standings. Lindsey Kilborn of the United States finished third, 0.44 behind, for her sixth top-three finish this season.

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# Philly's first 'line of defense' is its Pro Bowl secondary

By BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Terrell Owens is on crutches and probably finished until next season.

Randy Moss is limping from a strained right ankle that cost him practice time, but is expected to be on the field Sunday when his Minnesota Vikings play the Eagles in a second-round playoff game.

Advantage Minnesota? Not so fast.

While Philadelphia certainly will miss Owens, the team's most dangerous playmaker — and lightning rod — the Eagles likely can handle his absence because of their staunch defense. And the key to that defense is the superb secondary, which is capable of shutting down even a healthy Moss, Minnesota's most dangerous playmaker — and lightning rod.

"I think we are kind of coming together and getting on the same page," All-Pro cornerback Lito Sheppard said. "Maybe it is because of the type of year we have had so far. Everybody is feeling comfortable and a lot more confident."

You have to go against the best in order to be one of the best. This is another opportunity for me and the rest of the secondary to prove that we can play with the best."



Game time is Central European.

Moss might not be at his best, but he wasn't completely healthy last weekend and he had a big game at Green Bay. He wasn't so effective in Philadelphia's 27-16 victory over Minnesota in Week 2, with a costly pass interference penalty along with eight receptions for 69 yards and a 4-yard touchdown catch late in the game.

Moss couldn't get open deep against the secondary, which had been revamped in the offseason and had new starters at cornerback in Sheppard and Sheldon Brown. That secondary has jelled so well that free safety Brian Dawkins also made the All-Pro team, plus strong safety Michael Lewis, Dawkins and Sheppard are going to the Pro Bowl.

So the experience gained by Sheppard, Brown and Lewis as starters, and the leadership of

Dawkins, have been critical in the development of the defensive backfield, perhaps the best secondary in football.

"They've got a lot of confidence," defensive coordinator Jim Johnson said. "They might give up a big play, but they won't back off. They are very competitive guys. They'll come right back and challenge a guy."

They'll be challenging Moss from the outset, along with Nate Burleson, who stepped up his performances when Moss was sidelined for three games and parts of two others by a hamstring injury. But it's a matchup that favors Philly.

"We have come a long way in a short period of time," Dawkins said. "We have come to a point of trusting each other and knowing that each guy can do his job with excellence."

"The most important thing on a football field, and especially in the secondary, is trust. You have to have trust that each guy can do his job and have a good time doing it and not have to worry about a guy."

Minnesota's secondary isn't nearly in the class of Philadelphia's, although Johnson praised Antoine Winfield, signed this season as a free agent. Not having to



Eagles safety Brian Dawkins is one of three Philadelphia defensive backs who were selected to play in the Pro Bowl this season.

deal with Owens will make things easier for Winfield and the other defensive backs.

But the Eagles have another prime weapon, running back Michael Westbrook, who creates mismatches against Minnesota's unimpressive linebackers and safeties. Philadelphia reached its third straight NFC championship game without Owens, then with San Francisco, and the injured Westbrook last year.

Now, the Eagles have a healthy Westbrook and a better defense.

So do the Vikings have an edge?

If they do, offensive coordinator Scott Linehan believes it stems from not getting blown out by the Vikings in Game 2.

"We've gone into that environment and put ourselves in position to win the football game, and didn't do it," Linehan said. "We still are a young team, and for our team to have that experience in their mind, knowing we've been there before, is certainly not going to hurt us."

## at Minnesota (9-8) vs Philadelphia (13-3)

**OPENING LINE** — Eagles by 8½. **RECORD VS. SPREAD** — Vikings 8-11. **SERIES RECORD** — Vikings lead 11-9 overall; Eagles lead 1-0 in playoffs.

**LAST POSTSEASON MEETING** — Eagles beat Vikings 31-16 on Jan. 3, 1981, at Philadelphia in a divisional playoff game.

**LAST WEEK** — Vikings beat Packers 31-17 in wild-card game. Eagles had bye.

**COLTS DEFENSE** — OVERALL (2), RUSH (15), PASS (25).

**COLTS OFFENSE** — OVERALL (29), RUSH (23), PASS (11).

**KEY MATCHUP** — Vikings CB Antoine Winfield and Philadelphia RB Brian Westbrook, who was named starting RB in Week 4.

**INTELLIGENCE** — Vikings QB Brett Favre, who was named starting QB in Week 4, is expected to start.

**PHILADELPHIA** — Eagles RB Brian Westbrook, who was named starting RB in Week 4, is expected to start.

**PHILADELPHIA** — Eagles QB Donovan McNabb, who was named starting QB in Week 4, is expected to start.

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## Plan: Patriots prepare for onslaught by Manning

PLAN, FROM BACK PAGE

The Colts also must face a star quarterback. Tom Brady doesn't have Manning's statistics, but his results have been better. He is 6-0 in playoff games and 48-14 during the regular season.

On Sunday, NFL calls leader Dwight Freeney will go after him. "When he is not backing the quarterback he is rushing the quarterback and forcing him to throw interceptions," Brady said. "You have to make certain he doesn't take over the game."

Manning broke Dan Marino's NFL record with 49 touchdown passes while Marvin Harrison, Reggie Wayne and Brandon Stokley became only the fourth trio of teammates to have each have at least 1,000 yards receiving in the same season.

Belichick usually comes up with a new wrinkle to confuse the opposing quarterback, but Manning adjusts at the line of scrimmage very well.

"You have to force him into bad decisions and you have to make plays," Patriots linebacker Mike

## Indianapolis (13-4) at New England (14-2)

**OPENING LINE** — Patriots by 2. **RECORD VS. SPREAD** — Colts 10-6. **SERIES RECORD** — Patriots lead 42-24 overall and 1-0 in playoffs.

**LAST MEETING** — Patriots beat Colts 27-24 on Sept. 6, 2004, at New England.

**LAST POSTSEASON MEETING** — Patriots beat Colts 24-16 on Jan. 18, 2004, at New England in AFC championship game.

**LAST WEEK** — Colts beat Broncos 49-24 in wild-card game. Patriots had bye.

**COLTS DEFENSE** — OVERALL (2), RUSH (15), PASS (25).

**COLTS OFFENSE** — OVERALL (29), RUSH (23), PASS (11).

**KEY MATCHUP** — Colts QB Peyton Manning vs. Patriots' depleted secondary.

**INTELLIGENCE** — Patriots' defense, which was named starting defense in Week 4, is expected to start.

**PHILADELPHIA** — Eagles RB Brian Westbrook, who was named starting RB in Week 4, is expected to start.

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## Tough Tice tries to alter Vikings' soft reputation

BY DAVE CAMPBELL

The Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Mike Tice made a living as a tough, intelligent — if not as talented — tight end in the NFL for 14 seasons.

His three years as head coach of the Minnesota Vikings have been engaging and hardly satisfying, but he has clearly made an impression on this team.

"There have been a whole lot of games the guys left it all out there," Tice said. "They've left a lot of guts on the field the whole season. It's just sometimes they didn't play so smart and sometimes they didn't play with the confidence you need to win those close games. But they've certainly left a lot of guts on the field for me, and I appreciate that."

The Vikings vied Philadelphia on Sunday in a wild-card playoff game. After a trying 9-8 regular season, a loss in the quarterfinals of the NFL playoffs would hardly be a disappointment.

But expectations were much higher at the beginning of September, and a 5-1 record certainly suggested this team could do a lot better than the lowest seed in a weak NFL field.

After a trying 9-8 regular season, a loss in the quarterfinals of the NFL playoffs would hardly be a disappointment.

Green Bay and upsetting the streaking Packers.

Amid national furor over the latest antics of wide receiver Randy Moss, who walked off the field with two seconds remaining during a loss at Washington, Tice brought his bunch together with a week's worth of training camp-style practices and motivational techniques designed to instill in the Vikings the underdog mentality they needed to win.

It worked. They jumped to 17-0 lead at Lambeau Field en route to a 31-17 victory.

"It shows the heart and desire we've got," wide receiver Nate Burleson said. "We've been through a lot of ups and downs ... Coach Tice always tells us it's not going to be easy."

Sounds as if the message is getting through.

"I always felt that the team should take on the personality of the coach," Tice said. "Whether it's a position coach or a head coach. I wonder why it took so long, I guess, is what I kind of think about."

"I wish they could've done that the last 10 weeks, but they didn't and we'll have to evaluate why that was. I know we lost some tough, close games, but I'm just proud of the guys because they accepted the challenge ... and performed like they're capable of

playing."

The attitude, in everyone's mind, starts at the top.

"He's a hard-nosed type guy," quarterback Daunte Culpepper said. "He'll tell you better than anybody he's worked for everything he's gotten. Nothing comes easy. And that's the type of road we've taken."

# Chargers' Schottenheimer given two-year extension

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — San Diego coach Marty Schottenheimer agreed Friday to a two-year contract extension with the Chargers that runs through the 2007 season.

Schottenheimer has one year remaining on his original four-year deal, which he signed in January 2002 and paid him \$2.5 million a season. Terms of the extension weren't immediately available.

Schottenheimer helped turn the Chargers from the NFL's worst team at 4-12 to the AFC West champions at 12-4 and won AP Coach of the Year honors. San Diego made the playoffs for the first time in nine seasons.

The Chargers were upset by the New York Jets in the wild-card round last Saturday, 20-17 in overtime. Schottenheimer's postseason record fell to 5-12 after his fifth straight playoff loss dating to 1993 with Kansas City.

Schottenheimer, 61, is 24-24 in three seasons with the Chargers.

"The franchise took a giant step forward this past season," Schottenheimer said in a statement. "This success is a product of every person in the organization pulling together in the same direction. I appreciate the opportunity to continue to build on what we've achieved together over the past three years."

General manager A.J. Smith



said he'll now focus on new contracts for Schottenheimer's assistants. Only defensive coordinator Wade Phillips and defensive backs coach Brian Stewart are under contract for next year.

## Whitsitt fired as Seahawks president

SEATTLE — Bob Whitsitt was fired by the Seattle Seahawks as president of football operations Friday, the same day Seattle VP Ted Thompson was hired by Green Bay as general manager.

"I decided to take a change of direction and bring in somebody with a deep background in football to run the football side of the organization," Seahawks owner Paul Allen said. "I didn't take it lightly at all, but felt it's what is needed for the franchise."

Whitsitt served as the Seahawks' president for eight years and helped negotiate the purchase and development of Qwest Field and the hiring of Mike Holmgren as head coach.

Whitsitt is the former president and general manager of the Portland Trail Blazers, also owned by Allen.

Whitsitt is currently recovering from colon surgery to remove a growth.

Seattle went 9-7 and won the NFC West this season, then lost to



San Diego Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer, who took the team from 4-12 to 12-4 and the playoffs, was given an extension through 2007 on Friday.

St. Louis in the first round of the playoffs. Thompson will take over Packers coach Mike Sherman's GM duties.

The Seahawks have 16 players eligible for unrestricted free agency, including running back Shaun Alexander, offensive lineman Walter Jones, and quarterback Matt Hasselbeck.

"Obviously, we're a little short-handed at the moment, so we have to work quickly with the search," Allen said. "We're going to have to really address those issues quickly."



Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart announced on Friday his decision to return for his senior season at Southern Cal and try to lead the Trojans to an unprecedented third straight national championship.

# QB Leinart chooses USC over NFL Draft

The Associated Press

Matt Leinart wasn't the only college star to decide his future Friday.

While the Southern California junior quarterback opted to pass on NFL millions and stay in school, teammate Lofa Tatupu announced he will skip his senior season and enter the April draft.

On the eve of the deadline for underclassmen to declare their draft status, several touted players chose to remain in school.

Possible first-rounders Memphis tailback DeAngelo Williams and Texas defensive tackle Rod Wright decided to stay, as did Longhorns strong safety Michael Huff and Trojans punter Tom Malone.

Virginia linebacker Darryl Blackstock and Notre Dame defensive end Justin Tucker announced they will forgo their senior seasons. The San Jose State duo of defensive end Tony Ficklin and running back Tyson Thompson and San Diego State linebacker Matt McCoy also said they're turning pro.

Leinart could have gone to the San Francisco 49ers as the first pick in upcoming draft. Instead, he'll try to lead the Trojans to an unprecedented third straight national title and become the second two-time Heisman winner.

"I made a decision — I'm not looking back," he said. "There's something special going on here that I didn't want to give up."

Trojans coach Pete Carroll said the coaching staff worked hard to help Leinart and the two other juniors make their decisions. He said the coaches didn't "hit it on all cylinders" due to the loss of Tatupu but added that the linebacker would remain a member of the Trojan family forever.

Utah announced that star receiver Steve Savoy, a third-year sophomore, has withdrawn from classes and signed with an agent, bypassing his final two seasons. Williams, the two-time Confer-

ence USA offensive player of the year, led Memphis to an 8-4 season and a bid to the GMAC Bowl. The third-team All-American ran for 1,948 yards on 313 carries and scored 22 touchdowns in 2004.

Texas' Wright was projected by some draft analysts as a possible first- or second-round pick. At 6-5, 300 pounds, he was second among Longhorns defensive linemen last season with 36 tackles.

After helping Texas finish 11-1 with a victory in the Rose Bowl, Wright said he wanted to help Texas get back to Pasadena. The Rose Bowl will host the Bowl Championship Series title game next season.

"I thought about being somewhere, in some cold city by myself, watching this team win a national championship," he said.

Huff had 73 tackles and two interceptions last season.

Blackstock decided to leave after leading all linebackers with 11 sacks this season. He had 27 as a three-year starter at Virginia.

"Darryl played a significant role in a lot of games that we have won," Virginia coach Al Groh said. "He is a talented player, and we wish great success for him with this next challenge."

Tuck, Notre Dame's career sacks leader, was voted the team's most valuable player last season. The Irish defensive end finished with 24½ sacks, including a season record of 13½ in 2003.

San Jose State's Ficklin made the all-conference team last season, recording seven sacks and 17 tackles for loss for the Spartans, while Thompson rushed for 811 yards and five touchdowns.

McCoy was a second-team all-Mountain West Conference choice as a sophomore and junior for the Aztecs. He was second on the team with 90 tackles last season.

Underclassmen had until Saturday to declare for the draft and have until Jan. 19 to withdraw their names.

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# Illinois, Kansas, N. Carolina still connected

## Schools that rode coaching carousel in 2003 intertwined at top of poll

BY NANCY ARMOUR

The Associated Press

**W**hen high-profile coaches are on the coaching merry-go-round, it usually means as much mess as success.

One school might thrive, riding a combination of talent and enthusiasm over a fresh start. For others, though, there's that awkward adjustment period, a few years when the new and old clash and the win-loss record suffers for it.

Illinois, Kansas and North Carolina are defying that. Less than two years after the three were intertwined in coaching switches, they're united again — this time at the top of the polls.

"I don't think it's happened very often," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "I can't think of a time when there's been movement where everyone's continued at the same pace they were before."

Actually, the three are better off than they were before the changes. Illinois and Kansas have been 1-2 in The Associated Press poll for the last six weeks, and the Tar Heels have joined them at No. 3 for the last five.

Kansas (12-0) has been No. 1 or 2 the entire season, despite losing Wayne Simien for four games and relying heavily on freshmen Alex Galindo, Russell Robinson, Sasha Kaun, C.J. Giles and Darnell Jackson. The Illini (17-0) are off to their best start in 15 years and are winning games by an average of 20 points.

North Carolina (14-1) has spent all but one week in the top 10, and has won 14 straight games since a season-opening loss to Santa Clara.

"I thought all three teams in the preseason had a chance to be pretty good," UNC coach Roy Williams said. "I will admit I thought Illinois and Kansas would be up there, but it remained to be seen how well we continued to make adjustments."

"If we did, I thought we had a chance to be a very good team as well."

The chain reaction started with Kansas in April 2003, when Williams left the Jayhawks after taking them to back-to-back Final Fours. His new task: to revive his struggling alma mater, North Carolina.

Kansas hired Self, who'd led the Illini to a 78-24 record



Bill Self, above, encountered skepticism when he replaced Roy Williams at Kansas, but even detractors can't argue with the Jayhawks' No. 2 ranking in the AP Top 25.



Illinois coach Bruce Weber, above, who replaced Bill Self when Self took over for Roy Williams at Kansas, has the No. 1 Illini (17-0) off to their best start in 15 years.

in three years and had them poised for extended success with one of the best freshmen classes in the country.

Illinois turned to Bruce Weber, a longtime Gene Keady assistant who'd led Southern Illinois to two NCAA appearances, including a regional semifinal appearance in 2002.

"When Roy left, he knew he was leaving behind a place with good players to go to a place with good players," Self said. "When I left Illinois, I knew I was leaving a place with good players to go to a place with good players."

But that doesn't guarantee quick success. Just look at the angst that followed some other high-profile switches.

Tubby Smith took Georgia to the NCAA tournament in 1996 and 1997 before leaving for Kentucky. The Wildcats won the NCAA title in their first year under Smith and have been back to the tournament every year since. But it took the Bulldogs four seasons to regroup before Jim Harrick had them back in the tournament.

Georgia wound up firing Harrick over allegations of improper payments to players and academics fraud, and the Bulldogs are on NCAA probation for four years.

Matt Doherty won AP's national coach of the year award in 2001, his first season at North Carolina. But the Tar Heels went a program-worst 8-20 the following year, and Doherty was forced out after North Carolina missed the tournament again in 2003.

"When you go to a place where they've had success, I think it's a little more difficult. And all three of us ran into a little bit of adversity, tough starts," Weber said. "Change is hard. It's hard for everybody. But again, time heals all wounds."

"I think we all have systems that have been successful," he added. "Once the kids figured out the systems were good for them, I think they all bought in. Each program, it was probably all at different points."

Though Weber, Self and Williams run similar systems — stingy defense, fast-paced offenses and unselfishness with the ball are trademarks of all three programs — each has his own way of doing things. And when players were successful under their old coach, it can be tough to hear some outsiders tell them they need to change.

Add in the hurt feelings that always come with a breakup, and it can be a messy transition.

"We had a lot of people who questioned his coaching," Illinois guard Deron Williams said. "It was real tough. We

had our ups and downs throughout the season, but it got better toward the end — once we learned each other's characteristics."

The Illini had loved Self, and they weren't too keen on their new coach's conditioning program and emphasis on tougher defense.

But one by one, they bought in. The Illini won 12 straight to clinch the Big Ten title and made the NCAA tournament for the fifth year in a row.

"Time allows you to understand what people are trying to do," Weber said. "All of a sudden, it just kind of falls into place."

Self didn't have it much easier with the Jayhawks. Kansas is one of the country's storied programs and Williams' record speaks for itself: nine conference titles and four Final Fours in 15 seasons.

So the Jayhawks were, naturally, a little skeptical when Self arrived and started making changes.

"You can only coach what you believe in and what you know," Self said. "It took time for everybody to not buy in, but subconsciously buy in."

The Tar Heels embraced Williams immediately, hungry for redemption after missing the NCAA tournament two straight years.

But it took them time to adjust, too.

"Last year everything was a new process," junior Sean May said this month. "Last year, we told [reporters], 'It's no big deal. We're adjusting to Coach.' But it takes time regardless."

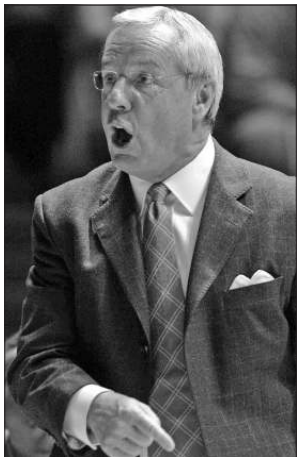
Now everyone has settled in, though, and the imprints left by Self at Illinois and by Williams at Kansas are starting to fade.

"I think it's Bruce's team, even though I had my handprint on it," Self said. "And I think it's my team, even though it has Roy's handprint on it."

Deron Williams agreed. "This is Coach Weber's team," he said. "We know [Self] recruited us, but Coach Weber is our coach. We love him and we respect him."

But Kansas and Illinois haven't necessarily seen the last of their old coaches. The teams could find themselves reunited again in April — this time at the Final Four.

"It's just kind of crazy how it all works out," Weber said. "It is ironic or amazing that the three dominoes all ended up at the top."



Roy Williams started the North Carolina-Kansas-Illinois chain reaction when went to North Carolina, his alma mater. The Tar Heels have been No. 5 for three weeks.

# Federer leaving rest of field playing catch-up

## Men still chasing defending champ; injuries take toll on women's field

BY JOHN PYE

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick and Lleyton Hewitt knew they needed to do something drastic. Roger Federer was winning practically every tournament, and the gap between him and everyone else in men's tennis was growing.

Agassi tuned his 34-year-old body like never before, looking to gain whatever edge he could when he next meets the top-ranked Swiss player. Agassi, however, hurt his hip during a tuneup match against Roddick and it's not certain he will play when the Australian Open begins Monday at Melbourne Park.

Roddick, ranked No. 2, switched coaches. He ended an 18-month association with Brad Gilbert that had produced his first major title, joining former U.S. Davis Cup coach Dean Goldfine and overhauling his practice regimen.

Hewitt, ranked No. 3, boosted his upper body, hoping it might help him end a six-match losing string to Federer that included the finals of the U.S. Open and season-ending Masters Cup.

"Roger has taken the game to a new level," said Hewitt, the former U.S. Open and Wimbledon champion who at one time led Federer 6-1 head-to-head.

Federer won the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open among his 11 titles in 2004, becoming the first man since Mats Wilander in 1988 to capture three of the four majors in one season.

Adding another title last week at Qatar — his 23rd — he improved his winning streak in four finals to 14 and stretched his winning run to 21 consecutive matches.

"To finish No. 1 and the way he did it is an incredible effort, but it's also become the standard that everybody is trying to push for," said Agassi, an eight-time major champion. "I'm thankful for those that

make us better, and Roger definitely does that."

Federer is flattered by the attention, but he's not letting it distract him from his goal for 2005 — start with an Australian Open title and finish with the No. 1 ranking.

"In a way, I enjoy it, to get so many compliments," Federer said. "I had such a great season last year — I guess like nobody had in 15 or 20 years — so it's normal that right away everybody compares me to the all-time greats. Now it's up to me to prove it and to be up there for a long time."

To remain on top, Federer decided he also needed to change. He worked with a coach for the first time in a year, spending two weeks in Sydney with former Australian Davis Cup coach Tony Roche.

He thinks a few tweaks already have improved his game.

That's probably not what Agassi and company wanted to hear.

After shedding 10 pounds to drop into the mid-160s and building his strength and conditioning, Agassi was primed for his shot at a fifth Australian title. Now he's at risk of having to join an injured list that includes former Wimbledon and U.S. Open finalist Mark Philippoussis and three of the top 10 women, and possibly more.

Top-ranked Lindsay Davenport was one of five players who pulled out of the Sydney International on Thursday. Davenport, who withdrew from this month's Hopman Cup to rest her injured knee, said she had bronchitis but expected to be OK.

"I've been sick all week. At some point you've got to stop. My energy level was about 30 percent," said Davenport, the 2000 Australian champion. "Hopefully, antibiotics and rest will all help."

Last year's champion, Justine Henin-Hardenne, and the runner-up, Kim Clijsters, didn't make it to Melbourne. Henin-Hardenne withdrew last weekend



Roger Federer's extended success has left the top players on the men's tour rethinking their games and adjusting their regimens. Federer is seeded No. 1 for the year's first Grand Slam, the Australian Open, which begins on Monday in Melbourne.

because of a knee injury. Clijsters has had a wrist problem for a long time.

Jennifer Capriati, who won Australian titles in 2001 and 2002, withdrew because of an ailing right shoulder that has troubled her since November.

On the plus side, 2003 champion Serena Williams is back after missing last year's Grand Slam opener and spending much of the season sidelined with injuries. She said she's "really excited about the way things are going in my game — it's a pretty big, open draw."

She and sister Venus, who have won a total of 10 major singles titles, have been working together in Melbourne.

"I get to play Venus every day — she's great to practice with because she's one of the best players out there," Serena said. "She hits hard, she serves hard, she runs fast, she just does everything pretty much the best."

There are four Russians in the top 10, all spurring each other on. Three of them won majors last season and one lost two finals in majors.

No. 3 Anastasia Myskina was the first Russian woman to win a Grand Slam tournament title when she beat compatriot Elena Dementieva at the French Open in June. Maria Sharapova defeated Serena Williams in the Wimbledon final, and Svetlana Kuznetsova beat Dementieva in the U.S. Open final.

"It's remarkable," Davenport said. "I

don't think any country has ever had so many players come up and reach the top of the game like they have."

Myskina was upset in the first round by Chinese qualifier Shuai Peng in Sydney last week, but said it gave her time to adjust to conditions in Melbourne.

Sharapova, 17, beat Kuznetsova, Myskina and Serena Williams at the season-ending championships in Los Angeles to underline her ascent to the top, but she hasn't played in Australia this season.

Roddick skipped his usual warmup tournaments to concentrate on practice and play in the Kooyong Classic, the annual exhibition tuneup.

"I've had a great training period with Dean, felt better than I have in a long time," he said. "I'm happy with the team around me now. I'm very optimistic for 2005."

Agassi, meanwhile, will continue to treat his hip, hoping that at this stage he's not reduced to watching Federer on TV. For most of his career, Agassi contended in the majors with Pete Sampras.

Now it's Federer's.

"I've played these guys on days when I'm convinced they're the best in the world," Agassi said. "Both of them bring a phenomenal amount of weaponry to the tennis court. Both of them have an ability to make you feel like a spectator, so you have to make sure you're at your best."

# Bryant to miss at least five games with ankle sprain

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant will miss at least five games with a severely sprained right ankle, but the Los Angeles Lakers said Friday they won't know exactly how long he'll be out for another 72 hours.

Bryant, hurt in the first quarter of Thursday night's game against Cleveland, was to be placed on the injured list and replaced on the roster by rookie guard Tony Bobbitt before Saturday night's game at Golden State.

An MRI exam confirmed Bryant has a severely sprained ankle. The Lakers said he'll be re-evaluated Monday, and an estimate on how long he'll be sidelined will be given at that time.

"It's all right," Bryant said Fri-



## Briefs

day. "Very painful, but not as bad as it was last night."

Bryant is the NBA's second-leading scorer with a 27.5-point average. He was injured when he landed on Ira Newble's right foot while going for a rebound under the Cavaliers' basket.

"We will miss him greatly, but this is an opportunity to grow as a team," coach Rudy Tomjanovich said before the Lakers flew to Oakland for their game against the Warriors.

"It puts a way bigger burden on me," the coach said. "We know

Lamar (Odom) will get more plays, but I've got to call these things for other guys and get people in the right positions, because Kobe was in those positions and he carried a lot of the load."

Odom scored 24 points to equal a season-high in the Lakers' 98-94 victory over the Cavaliers, raising their record to 19-15.

Regarding Bryant's injury, Tomjanovich said: "It happens all the time in this league. You ever pick a poker? You take the hand you've dealt and you play with it. You don't worry about what if I've gotten this or what if I've gotten that."

When asked what kind of hand he had, Tomjanovich laughed: "I'm not giving up my cards," he said.

X-rays taken shortly after Bry-

ant was injured were normal, but after the game he said he knew the injury was serious, saying it might take weeks rather than days for him to recover.

When asked Friday if it could be on the short end — like two weeks — he replied: "I hope so. But I've got to tell you, this is the worst ankle sprain I've had, pain-wise. I can't even move my foot. I have a high threshold for pain. I kind of enjoy it sometimes. It lets you know you're still living, but this one right here, I don't like too much."

"I think Monday we'll have a clearer idea as far as recovery time."

Bryant, 26, has played in every Lakers game this season despite having soreness in his left foot from plantar fasciitis. He entered

Thursday's game averaging an NBA-best 43.1 minutes per game. There is good news — following their game at Golden State, the Lakers play nine straight games at Staples Center including a designated road game against the Clippers.

## Goldwire gets another 10-day deal with Detroit

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — The Detroit Pistons signed Anthony Goldwire to another 10-day contract Friday.

Goldwire, who signed his first 10-day contract with Detroit on Jan. 5, played in his third game with the Pistons against Orlando on Friday night. The 33-year-old point guard has a chance to make the team for the remainder of the season because it needs depth behind starter Chauncey Billups.





# Hornets win again despite Stoudamire's 54

BY BRETT MARTEL

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Dan Dickau's break-out season and Baron Davis' return to form have suddenly made the New Orleans Hornets a much tougher team to beat.

Dickau made six three-pointers and scored a career-high 25 points, leading the Hornets to their third victory in four games, 112-106 over the struggling Portland Trail Blazers on Friday night.

"I never consciously decided" to start taking three-pointers, Dickau said. "A couple open ones popped up. I just knocked them down. Then I got left wide open a few more times, and if you're a shooter you've got to take it."

Davis, who returned from a back injury in late December, scored 22 points, including seven key free throws in the final 1:03, to help New Orleans overcome Damon Stoudamire's 54-point performance.

Stoudamire set a career high and broke Geoff Petrie's franchise record of 51 points. The Portland star was 20-for-32 from the field and made eight three-pointers (tying the team record Nick Van Exel set Monday in Philadelphia), including one with 8 seconds left to make it 110-106. That came after Stoudamire was fouled on a three-pointer and made all three free throws.

Lee Nailon added 22 points for New Orleans, while Chris Andersen had a season-high 15. P.J. Brown had 10 points and 12 rebounds as the Hornets outbounded the Trail Blazers 46-30. The Hornets had 19 offensive rebounds, leading to 25 second-chance points. New Orleans also out-

scored Portland 30-12 on free throws.

Van Exel scored 23 for Portland, which has lost six of seven and eight of 10.

But like the Hornets earlier this season, the Blazers have been plagued with injuries of late. Leading scorer Zach Randolph (right knee) was the latest scratch, further hurting a front court that had already lost Shareef Abdur-Rahim (right elbow) and Darius Miles (left knee).

That left the scoring burden on Stoudamire and Van Exel, who had little help as no other teammate scored more than eight.

"I sure wish we could have had an inside scorer today so we could have got a win," Stoudamire said. "We've just got to find somebody to throw that ball down low to who can take a little pressure off. In that second half especially, they were really guarding me and Nick and saying, 'Hey, let other people beat us.'"

The Hornets, who trailed by 17 after one quarter, had their largest lead at 87-75 when Davis found Brown underneath for a dunk late in the third period. Portland trimmed it to 91-85 on Van Exel's three early in the fourth quarter, and New Orleans' lead was down to 98-93 when Stoudamire drove inside and scored in traffic with under 4:20 left.

But Andersen hit a free throw after being fouled on an offensive rebound. He then tipped in Davis' miss to put the Hornets up 101-93 with 3:20 to go. He made two more foul shots to give New Orleans a 103-96 lead with 1:32 left.

"Baron's getting healthier ... He's just doing a great job of distributing the basket-

ball and leading the team right now and we're all falling in and hitting shots," Brown said. "After all the hard times we had closing out games in the fourth quarter we're doing a better job of that. We've got young guys maturing. We're just growing as a team and it's going to get better and better."

The Hornets (5-30) still have the worst record in the league, but they are no longer on pace to set a new mark for NBA futility, a distinction that currently belongs to the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers, who were 9-73.

The teams combined for 28 three-pointers, one short of the NBA record of 29 set in 1997 by Denver and Seattle.

And the game looked more like a three-point shooting contest in the first half, when the teams combined for a 23 threes — an NBA record for a half — in an exhibition that drove the crowd wild.

Portland was 7-for-8 on threes in the first quarter alone and shot a whopping 76.2 percent from the field in taking a 40-23 lead.

New Orleans responded by setting a franchise record for second-quarter scoring with 43 points and for three-pointers with nine, opening the period with a 10-0 run that included threes by Dickau and Davis.

Stoudamire, who had 30 points in the first half, kept Portland ahead most of the quarter by hitting three of his five first-half threes.

Then, fittingly, the Hornets tied it at 56 on Dickau's fourth of five first-half 3s. Boston Nachbar's three gave the Hornets their first lead, then Dickau's fifth three put



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damon Stoudamire (3) takes a shot over New Orleans Hornets' Chris Andersen, left, and P.J. Brown on Friday. Stoudamire scored 54 points, but the Hornets won 112-106.

New Orleans ahead 64-61.

Nailon's 18 footer in the final second made it 66-63.



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# SPORTS



Despite Stoudamire's 54 points, Hornets beat Blazers; Indiana topples Phoenix, Pages 42, 43



## Informed Pats seek coverage plan

BY HOWARD ULMAN  
The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Stopping Peyton Manning is a huge challenge for a defense that's at full strength. Imagine how he'd attack a wounded team.

The answer will come Sunday.

That's when the New England Patriots — missing their best two cornerbacks and perhaps Pro Bowl defensive end Richard Seymour — face the Indianapolis Colts' record-setting quarterback.

"We will go out there with what we've got," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "The draft is over."

He did add defensive backs Hank Poteat and Antwan Harris to the roster this week, and nagging injuries to other members of the secondary have gotten better. That doesn't make up for the absence of cornerbacks Ty Law and Tyrone Poole, both on injured reserve after being sidelined most of the season.

Seymour is listed as questionable for the playoff game three weeks after hurting his knee and then missing the last regular-season game.

Rookie Randall Gay and second-year pro Asante Samuel have gotten most of the starts at cornerback and third-year pro Jarvis Green is Seymour's backup.

"Guys get hurt during games and other people step up. It's not something that really is an issue," Colts coach Tony Dungy said Friday. "We've been through it with our offensive line. Guys have been out and rookies have stepped in and we've won. That's just the way you have to do it."

■ **Minnesota's potent passing attack faces a tough task vs. Philly's talented secondary, Page 38**



Colts RB Edgerrin James (left) ranked third in the NFL in rushing with 1,548 yards. QB Peyton Manning's (center) ability to call effective audibles will be tested in noisy Gillette Stadium. WR Reggie Wayne (right) was fourth in the AFC with 1,210 receiving yards. His 221 receiving yards last week were the third-most in a playoff game.

James and Wayne photos by KRT, Manning by AP

### Game figures to hinge on performance of New England's depleted secondary

The Colts probably will play without defensive end Robert Mathis, who has 10½ sacks. Starting defensive tackle Josh Williams is listed as questionable.

If the Patriots lose, their quest for a third Super Bowl championship in four years will end. Manning is 0-6

in his career against the Patriots, including a 24-14 loss in last year's AFC title game during which he threw four interceptions.

He had his lowest completion percentage this season — except for the finale when he played one series because the Colts were locked into the AFC's No. 3 playoff slot — on opening night in a 27-24 loss at Foxboro and was involved in two damaging plays.

With the ball at the Patriots' 6-yard line, he threw an interception to Teddy Bruschi on the Colts' first drive. On their last possession, he was sacked by Willie McGinest one play before Mike



AP photos

Coach Bill Belichick (left), 6-0 in the playoffs with New England, must make do without injured starting cornerbacks Ty Law (right) and Tyrone Poole.

Vanderjagt missed a field-goal attempt that would have tied the score.

Another team that gave Manning trouble was the Baltimore Ravens.

Indianapolis still won 20-10 on Dec. 19, but Manning had his second lowest passer rating of the season, except for the final game.

"They brought different blitzers and mixed up who is coming and made us throw quick," Dungy said after that game.

Forcing Manning to throw quickly doesn't always work, especially with a quarterback so adept at reading defenses with a group of receivers who don't need much time to get open.

"When you want the rush to get there is when the receivers are running their routes and the quarterback is throwing the ball," Belichick said.

"The idea is to force the quarterback to throw at the time you have the receivers covered. If you can do that, then you have a chance."

The Patriots also must do a better job against the run. They allowed Indianapolis to rush for 202 yards in their first meeting this season, 142 by Edgerrin James.

"I think our defense's goal every time we go into a game is to stop the run and make the team one-dimensional," linebacker Roosevelt Colvin said. "But, in this situation, the Colts love to pass, so it is like pick your poison."

SEE PLAN ON PAGE 38

Indianapolis at New England Patriots

10:30 p.m. Sunday  
AFN-A, AFN-P, AFN Radio

Game time is Central European.

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**Vilseck boys, girls fall to Mannheim, beat SHAPE; high school roundup**

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**Heisman Trophy winner Leinart shuns NFL millions for another season at Southern Cal**

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